

Rome discusses Craxi Mideast initiative

ROME (R) — The Italian cabinet considered Friday a proposal by Socialist leader Bettino Craxi that the European Community (EC) seek a peacekeeping mandate in the Israeli-occupied territories. A statement by Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita's office said the proposal was discussed at length but made clear fuller consideration was needed before the cabinet could decide whether to adopt it. The Foreign Ministry was studying the proposal to establish whether it might be workable from a political point of view and under international law, it added. Craxi, who earlier caused controversy by proposing official Italian recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), launched the initiative last Saturday. He said Italy should ask the EC to seek a transitional mandate through the United Nations to administer the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza to help to reduce tension there and buy time for a long-term settlement. Craxi's Socialists are the second biggest party in De Mita's five-party coalition after the prime minister's Christian Democrats. The proposal has drawn a cautious response from the smaller coalition parties.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «البراي»

Greece condemns murder of ASALA leader

ATHENS (R) — Greece condemned Friday the killing in Athens of a leading Armenian guerrilla while police questioned suspects and hunted for the two masked gunmen who shot him. Government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said in a statement: "In our peaceful country every terrorist act for the solution of political or other differences is condemned by the whole of our peaceful people." The gunman used a sawn-off shotgun in a dawn attack Thursday morning against Hagop Hagopian, identified by the Greek Ministry of Public Order as founder of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA). (See page 8). ASALA has waged a bloody campaign against official Turkish targets for more than 15 years, seeking an independent state in the Armenian region of Turkey and recognition for its allegations that 1.5 million Armenians were massacred in eastern Turkey during World War I. Turkey rejects the allegations. ASALA has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks against Turkish diplomats in West Europe and the United States.

Volume 13 Number 3769

AMMAN SATURDAY APRIL 30, 1988, RAMADAN 14, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

'Abu Jihad' warned of Israeli plot

BEIRUT (R) — Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad) warned Palestinians in Lebanon of an Israeli assassination plot a few days before he was gunned down in Tunis. Palestinian officials said Friday, "Three days before he was killed he called all Palestinian officials to tell them to take extra security measures because of an Israeli plan to kill as many Palestinian leaders and officials as possible," one Palestinian official said. Abu Jihad, deputy commander of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), read out over the telephone an Israeli list of Palestinians targeted for assassination, the officials told Reuters. The list included Abu Jihad's own name.

Greek police free Israeli suspect

ATHENS (R) — Greek police said Friday they had freed an Israeli citizen because of lack of evidence about an assassination attempt on a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official. A police spokesman, who identified the Israeli as 31-year-old computer operator Issac Farahri from Tel Aviv, said he had refused to answer questions. The Israeli said he had come to Athens to meet a British woman friend whom he had failed to find, the spokesman added (see earlier story on page 5).

Libya to host 'mini-Arab summit'

DUBAI (R) — Four Arab leaders are expected to meet in Libya next month to forge a joint stand at the June summit in Algiers, a Gulf newspaper said Friday. Al Bayan quoted Palestinian sources in Tunis as saying Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had proposed a meeting in Tripoli with the leaders of Libya, Syria and Algeria. It said Arafat presented at the Algiers summit, called to discuss the 20-week-old Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Al Shiraa reports new hostage effort

BEIRUT (AP) — French negotiators are expected to arrive soon in Beirut in an effort to free three French hostages held by extremists since 1985, the weekly magazine Al Shiraa reported Friday. The release of the French hostages was expected last week, before the first round of presidential elections in France. Negotiators flew into Beirut last Friday for that purpose but left empty-handed the following day amid reports the captors had made new demands. Al Shiraa said the negotiators would seek to free the hostages before the second round of presidential elections May 8. Al Shiraa said: "The competition between French President Francois Mitterrand and Premier Jacques Chirac to use the release of the hostages in their presidential campaigns prompted the kidnappers to make tougher demands." The new conditions, it said, "delayed the release of the French hostages," it said without expelling out the new demands.

Tunisian law curbs Islamic movement

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian parliament has passed a law effectively excluding an Islamic movement among Tunisia's recognised parties. One provision in the law, passed Thursday by the 125-member assembly, states that no party can be based on a particular religion, race or language. An unrecognised Islamic party, the Islamic Tendency Movement, was the object of a major crackdown last year by the government of former President Habib Bourguiba. Seven people were sentenced to death at a mass treason trial mainly involving its party members.

Thailand premier calls snap elections

BANGKOK (A) — Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda dissolved parliament and his cabinet and called new elections Friday following a dispute over legislation to protect U.S. copyrights. The official Radio Thailand said general elections will be held July 24.

Analysts see no early end to revolt

Uprising leaders urge new protests

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinians staged demonstrations after prayers in Arab Jerusalem Friday and leaders of the uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip issued a call for new anti-Israeli strikes.

The latest of 15 communiqués signed by the underground leadership of the 20-week uprising in Arab Jerusalem and called for several new strikes, including one on May 1.

Although most parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip were quiet after Friday prayers, 300 Palestinians at the Haram Al Sharif campus chanted nationalist slogans and waved fists and

Israelis raid Lebanon villages, detain dozens

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli troops raided villages in southern Lebanon Friday to interrogate local Lebanese about recent commando infiltrations into Israel, and Israeli jets staged mock raids near Syria's border in eastern Lebanon, according to reports from South Lebanon and Tel Aviv.

Security sources in Lebanon said that Israeli troops and their Lebanese allies were carrying out searches but said most were not in villages but in the rocky terrain in South Lebanon's eastern sector. Reports from eastern Lebanon said at least six Israeli planes swooped low over villages in the Bekaa Valley Friday, drawing fire from militia positions. It was not immediately known

whether Syrian troops deployed in the area also opened fire. Israeli troops supported by South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen earlier entered more than 1,500 homes, interrogated more than 400 people and detained around 25 in 14 villages in Israel's self-declared "security zone," sources quoted by Reuters said.

Iraq reports hitting two vessels in Gulf

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq said Friday its warplanes blasted two vessels off the Iranian coast overnight, apparently resuming attacks on commercial shipping in the waterway after a one-month suspension.

Baghdad Radio said the warplanes staged two separate air raids late Thursday, hitting "a very large maritime target" and a large maritime target, "a usual reference to supertankers and tankers." The broadcast quoted a spokesman as saying the planes returned safely to base after scoring accurate and effective blows on the targets. He said the missions were designed to "destroy the oil supplies of the aggressors who use the oil revenues to prolong the war."

There was no immediate confirmation of either attack from Gulf-based shipping executives. Iran never acknowledges Iraqi attacks on vessels ferrying its oil

between the Kharg Island oil terminal at the northern tip of the Gulf and safer facilities in the southern part of the waterway.

Thursday night's raids were the first claimed by Iraq on Gulf shipping since April 7 when Baghdad said it had hit a supertanker.

Earlier Friday, Iran denied its forces had attacked Iraqi civilian areas and said Baghdad was looking for an excuse to resume its assault on cities.

A war information headquarters spokesman said Tehran had halted retaliatory strikes on Iraqi cities after Baghdad ended attacks on Iranian civilian regions April 21.

Iraq's high command accused Iran Thursday of bombing border settlements, violating Baghdad's unilateral ceasefire declared eight days ago.

Iraq warned that if the truce in the war of the cities was violated it would bring massive reprisals.

Media call for wider Arab, Islamic break with Iran

RIYADH (Agencies) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper called Friday for the expulsion of Iran from the 46-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) while a Kuwaiti newspaper urged Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf, to sever ties with Tehran.

The calls in the newspapers followed Saudi Arabia's rupture of its diplomatic ties with Iran Tuesday in retaliation for "terrorism and subversion" by the Iranians.

The Saudi statement referred to riots by Iranian pilgrims at Mecca last year during the annual pilgrimage, leading to the death of 402 people, to an attack on the Saudi embassy in Iran, and the Iranian strikes on shipping in the Gulf region.

Urging all Muslim states to follow the Saudi example and sever their ties with Tehran, the newspaper Al Yawm said the OIC "should also expel Iran and turn over its seat to the Iranian opposition."

It was referring to such former Iranian leaders as Shahpour Bakhtiari and Abol Hassan Bani Sadr who are living in exile and who were among the first to express support for the Saudi diplomatic break with Tehran.

The paper noted that the last ministerial OIC conference, held in March in Amman, had backed the Saudi condemnation of the Iranian action at Mecca and its determination to accept only some 45,000 Iranian pilgrims at the upcoming pilgrimage as compared to 150,000 last year. The Saudis asked all Islamic countries to reduce their numbers because of ongoing renovations at Mecca.

"When the Iranian government refuses to abide by the decision to limit the numbers of pilgrims, this means it rejects Islamic unanimity and breaks off from Islamic ranks, and that needs a stand with that regime which has become a source of terrorism to all throughout the world," wrote Al Yawm.

Palestinian flags as they marched around the Al Aqsa Mosque, according to witnesses quoted by news agencies.

Municipal and paramilitary police observed the half-hour demonstration but did not intervene.

Demonstrations were reported in Hebron and several refugee camps in the West Bank where Israeli forces made several arrests, Palestinian sources told Reuters.

The leaflet welcomed a rapprochement between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and threatened Palestinians seen as collaborating with Israeli authorities.

It called on the four Israel-appointed mayors of Bethlehem, Jericho, Al Bireh and Ramallah to resign, saying: "If they continue, let them know the previous attacks were nothing compared to the punishment that awaits them."

Ramallah Mayor Khalil Musa Khalil was slightly injured Thursday when demonstrators attacked his office and the car of Jericho's Jami Khalaf was recently set on fire, Palestinian sources said.

The latest leaflet also called on teachers and students to return to schools in defiance of an Israeli ban.

In the surrounding streets of Old Jerusalem, Palestinian shopkeepers began opening their stores promptly at 2 p.m., the hour that the leaders of the uprising have dictated for shops to open during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Israeli police have tried to force Arab merchants to open all day, or not at all, in a move to break the hold of uprising leaders on the shopkeepers.

Israeli troops in the West Bank Thursday shot dead a Palestinian and wounded several as protesters clashed with soldiers and Palestinians throughout the occupied areas staged a general strike to mourn slain Palestinian leader Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad).

The English-language Jerusalem Post Friday quoted "a knowledgeable defence source" as saying mass arrests and widespread economic and administrative measures had failed to quash the uprising in the occupied territories.

Military sources told Reuters many protest organisers had fled their homes to evade arrest.

Mahdi confirms Islamic laws will be reintroduced

KHARTOUM (R) — Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi confirmed Friday that Islamic laws would be revived for Sudan's Muslim majority but sought to allay fears of other creeds.

"It is obvious that Muslims have a right to their laws. They apply them whenever they want to and in the manner they choose," state Radio Omdurman quoted him as saying.

But he added: "They can do that so long as they don't infringe on the religious, human and citizenship rights of non-Muslims."

"It is not true that we want to impose Sharia on non-Muslims. We don't want this and not a single Muslim wants it."

Sharia, whose punishments can include amputation of hands for repeated theft, stoning to death for adultery and flogging for drinking alcohol, was introduced under the rule of Jaafar Numeiri in 1983.

Its application to non-Muslims angered church leaders and human rights activists at home and abroad.

Following are excerpts from Shultz testimony: "We are engaged intensively in an active process to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East through negotiations. This is a time for decisions. The situation on the ground does not serve anyone's interests. Rapid, positive

Friday prayers dwell on Jerusalem, Al Aqsa

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday performed prayers at Haj Saleh Abu Qoura Mosque in Amman.

Sheikh Mohammad Shaqra from the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs delivered sermons at the prayers and praised Jordan's wise leadership and called for intensified efforts to liberate Jerusalem.

The preacher also reviewed the historical relationship between the Hashemite leaders and Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and recalled the role of the late Sharif Hussein Ibn Ali, leader of the Greater Arab Revolt, in defending Palestine, and the martyrdom of King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Attending the prayers with the King were His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ibn Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior officials.

The King hosted an iftar banquet Thursday in honour of officers of the Armed Forces, the Public Security Department (PSD), the Civil Defence Department and the General Intelligence Departments.

Earlier Thursday, the King visited the Armed Forces headquarters in Amman and was welcomed by Prime Minister Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The King held a brief meeting with the prime minister, Field Marshal Sharif Zaid, Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb and the commander of Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Assad sends message to His Majesty

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday received a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad dealing with the latest developments in the Arab region. The message was delivered at Al Nadwa Palace by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa, who paid a brief visit to Amman.

Sharaa was quoted as saying by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the message dealt with bilateral consultations on Arab issues and recent developments in the Middle East.

Petra said the message also dealt with the process of coordinating and intensifying Jordanian-Syrian efforts in the face of the common threats and challenges posed to the Arab Nation.

Present at the audience were Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Syria's Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh.

The Syrian minister was guest of honour at an iftar banquet hosted by Abu Odeh and attended by the ministers of occupied territories affairs, information, interior and the Royal Court secretary general and the Syrian ambassador to Jordan.

On the occasion of the 35th anniversary of his assumption of constitutional powers, His Majesty King Hussein spoke with Time Cairo Bureau chief Dean Fischer and senior correspondent Murray J. Galt about the various problems facing the Middle East. Following are His Majesty's comments, published in the May 2 issue of Time.

On the Palestinian uprising: I don't believe it was something planned or organised outside the territories. It was an uprising of the people — the elderly, the young, the women. And it continues.

On its consequences: If no action is taken to resolve the Palestinian problem, by the turn of the century the Arab population in Palestine will be almost equal to the Jewish population. But the Arab population will be full of bitterness as a result of unjust treatment and denial of their rights. This is a recipe for disaster.

On Soviet policy: We find the Soviet attitude concerned, interested and constructive. We are hopeful of a visit by the Soviet foreign minister, but we don't know when it will take place.

On Arab unity: The Arab position is much more clear than it has ever been. What we are talking about now is an international conference of all the parties to the conflict. An invitation will go to the

PLO as the representative of the people of Palestine. Jordan will attend as a sovereign state. We are ready to attend in a joint delegation with Palestinians.

On the Iran-Iraq war: The war remains a threat not only to those two countries but to the entire Gulf region. Beyond that, it has threatened a sacred element in Muslim life, the pilgrimage to Mecca. Last year 400 people died in clashes. The statements of leaders in Iran suggest that this could be repeated this year.

On Khalil Al Wazir's death: He was a man of moral integrity, a man of his word. He commanded a lot of respect and affection among those who followed him. I think his loss will be felt within the PLO. But I believe the uprising will continue.

On Israel's role: I have a feeling that the trend in Israel now is toward greater extremism because they fear that Israeli Palestinians and Palestinians in the occupied territories are getting together. I hope this will change to a clearer vision of what is at stake and what needs to be done. Without jeopardising their rights, we could be on the verge of giving them the kind of life and the kind of peace that they have never imagined.

Shultz hopes Jordan would back U.S. proposal for int'l conference

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Secretary of State George Shultz expressed optimism Thursday that Jordan would support a U.S. proposal for an international peace conference on the Middle East if conditions were right.

"They haven't said that in so many words (but) if the flow were right, probably that would work out," he said.

Shultz reaffirmed his determination to press forward with the U.S. initiative, which is under attack from many sides.

Testifying before a Senate subcommittee, Shultz said a major stumbling block was a U.S. proposal for an international peace conference that would "sponsor" direct negotiations between Arabs and Israelis.

Referring to the U.S. plan, Shultz said: "I believe Egypt shares that view. I think that under the right circumstances, such a conference would be agreeable to Jordan."

In written testimony to the subcommittee, Shultz said: "The commitment of the United States is stronger and more determined than ever. We are carrying the initiative forward into a new and more detailed operational stage."

Following are excerpts from Shultz testimony: "We are engaged intensively in an active process to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East through negotiations. This is a time for decisions. The situation on the ground does not serve anyone's interests. Rapid, positive



His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and senior officials pray at the Haj Saleh Abu Qoura Mosque in Amman Friday (Petra photo)

King: Continued denial of Palestinian rights is recipe for disaster in Mideast

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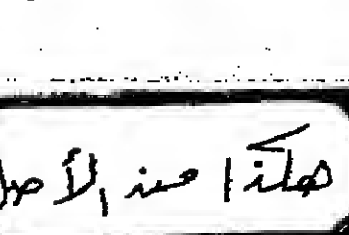
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HRH Crown Prince Hassan



Logo of the Jordanian Press Foundation

Wheeling through bureaucracy

In the last of a three-part article on agricultural projects in Jordan's southern desert, Jordan Times reporter Salameh Ne'matt interviews Miqdad Annab, the general manager of the Rum Agricultural Company on challenges facing his project.

THE Rum Agricultural Company was the first to take up a government-established project near the Wadi Rum area. Three years after its takeover, and despite several government incentives and substantial subsidies, the company is still struggling with regulations that restrict the work of this large-scale project.

Defining his company's relationship with the government, General Manager Miqdad Annab said Rum had a contract with the government which aims at achieving self-sufficiency in the area of wheat production in the Kingdom and to revive rural areas and the desert in the Wadi Rum region.

"The government has tried it and results indicated good prospects for farming in the region," Annab told the Jordan Times. "So they offered the project to us and we have developed it to what you have seen."

Beside growing wheat, Annab said the company is planning other crops in order to continue the agricultural cycle. The only exception would be cucumbers and tomatoes in order not to compete with small farmers in the Jordan Valley.

He cited marketing problems faced by the company saying that last year, potato prices averaged 170 fils per kilo at produce market prices. But due to the oversupply in potatoes, prices dropped to as low as 80 fils per kilo.

"We now plant potatoes, onions and garlic and we are thinking of producing 'strategic' crops such as beans and chick peas which are in great demand."

Most of Jordan's consumption of these commodities is imported in large quantities from Turkey, Arab and African states.

The company is also looking into the possibility of growing soya beans and is encouraged by

the government to produce industrial commodities such as sunflower seeds.

No cropping pattern

Annab explained that unlike Jordan Valley farmers, his project is exempt from following the government-imposed cropping pattern. Its principal produce is wheat which is bought by the government.

When the project was established, "our purpose was to grow wheat and forages, Sudan grass, alfalfa, and develop sheep farming to include red meat, dairy products and cow and sheep farming with between 500 and 1,000 heads of cattle."

He said the government was buying the wheat crop at subsidised prices but massive quantities are still being imported from abroad. "We have not yet had a great influence on the balance of trade," Annab said, "but a small dent is being made in the size of imports."

The company's total production for this year is expected to be in the range of 7,000 tonnes, which it hopes to increase to the coming two to three years to help reduce the Kingdom's imports.

On his company's relationship with the government, Annab said he had grievances over the government's inflexible farming regulations which he said were mostly tailored to suit small-scale agricultural projects and small farmers.

"All laws are tailored, geared and designed to suit small farmers," Annab asserted, "from pesticides to farming equipment — every time we need something for the project, we face delays."

He cited a recent procurement of a grain wagon and the problems the company had to go

through. "The wagon had four wheels and according to the law, wagons with four wheels would not be exempted from customs," he said. "Thus, the grain wagon was not exempted because it was not considered farming equipment." Rum Agricultural Company had to pay nearly 65 per cent of the wagon's value for customs.

Red tape

Similar problems have been encountered when irrigation systems are imported. Annab said the company imported 26 containers of "complete" irrigation systems. The whole unit included an underground piping system, above pipes, pressure pumps for fertilisers and other components that have to be included within that system in order to make whole units and so, be exempted from paying customs.

However, in their letter of credit, the company allowed for the shipment to be done on consignment basis because not all components were manufactured by the same company.

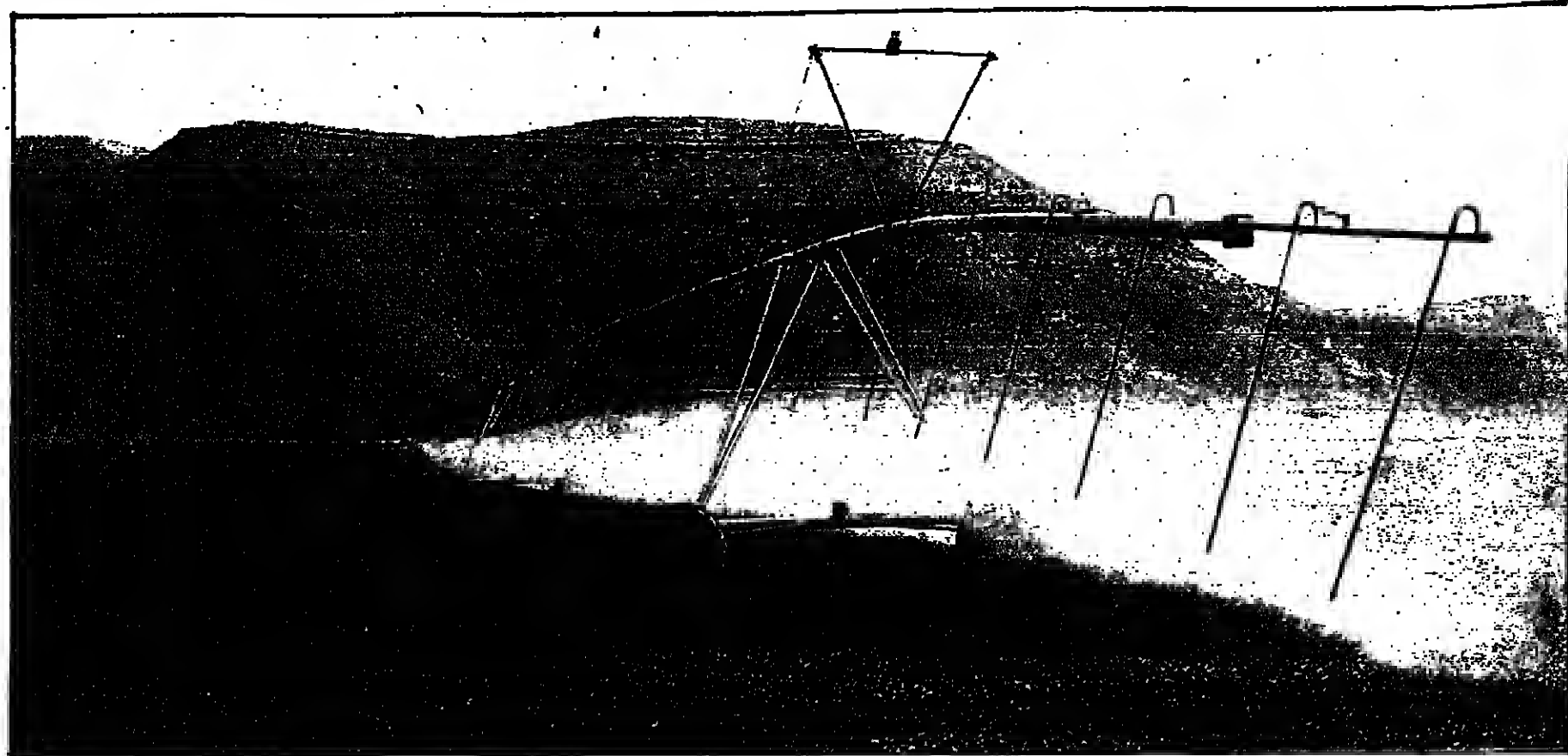
"Because they were shipped on consignments, the shipment did not arrive as 'whole units' at the same time," Annab said. "We were delayed 45 days."

In Aqaba, the company had to transfer the cargo from the port to the free zone until the procedures to release the irrigation units duty-free were completed.

"Look at the technicality," he said, insisting that "such procedures are designed for small farmers."

Annab criticised the government's industrial protectionism which is designed to help local industries compete with or replace imports. He said that the quality of the production of local industries was mediocre compared to imports and that protectionism was creating several problems for large-scale projects.

"We bought irrigation parts from local dealers," he said, "but we had many problems installing the irrigation systems." He said



Pivot irrigation systems come in different shapes (File photo)

the locally produced parts, such as pipes, often did not fit properly and were unreliable.

Citing other problems faced by large-scale farming projects, Annab said that because the project employs a relatively great number of workers, a bus was needed for the transportation of workers from the worksite to their sleeping quarters. But as bus licensing is limited for certain purposes, they could not license the bus for the project workers. The bus used in the project is now custom paid but not licensed and could not be insured.

Annab complained that government regulations often constituted a deterrent rather than an incentive. These regulations "hamper our mobility. We are having problems with the importation of chemicals. Most of these regulations are designed for small farmers. You can apply these import regulations on them because they never have to import as they buy from local dealers." He explained that "in a large-scale project like ours, we have to consume much larger quantities which have to be directly imported most of the time since local dealers cannot cater to such huge demands."

"Our set-up differs from small farmers," he stressed. "We have different concentrations and higher operations."

Annab called on the government to facilitate the importation of chemicals such as pesticides and the procurement of spare parts for farming equipment.

Communication problem

Communication between management in Amman and the project in the Wadi Rum area, nearly 350 kilometres away, is another problem plaguing companies. There are no telephone links and

no adequate wireless systems to facilitate communication between the Amman office and project managers and engineers on the field.

The present wireless system used in these projects was described as very limited but the concerned authorities refuse to update the system on security grounds.

"I have been seeking to update the wireless system for a year," Annab said. "It is a vast project and it is difficult to communicate with the present short-distance system."

Engineers and technicians often find it necessary to communicate with the management and vice-versa on issues related to the procurement of material or equipment for the project.

"We have been suffering for three years because of the lack of a telephone link," he said that all government departments and particularly the Ministry of Agri-

culture have long-range wireless systems.

Annab told the Jordan Times that the government could have better avoided these problems had it set up, from the beginning, a ministerial committee to solve all problems faced by new companies at the beginning of their projects.

Before exploring export markets, such large-scale agricultural companies are now concentrating on ways to satisfy the local market. "We want to fulfil this need before we start thinking in earnest about export markets," the company's director said.

But when there was an oversupply in the market, companies including Rum Agricultural Company were met with enormous difficulties in getting reasonable freight charges on air and sea cargo. The export markets these companies had in mind for the export of potatoes included Eng-

land, France and other European countries.

Annab said that his company cooperated with other similar companies towards overcoming hurdles facing the agricultural sector in general and large-scale projects in particular. "We have some form of cooperation with other companies on common problems with the government. We sometimes exchange ideas."

The Rum Agricultural Company has a declared capital of JD 6 million with 60 per cent of the capital owned by shareholders.

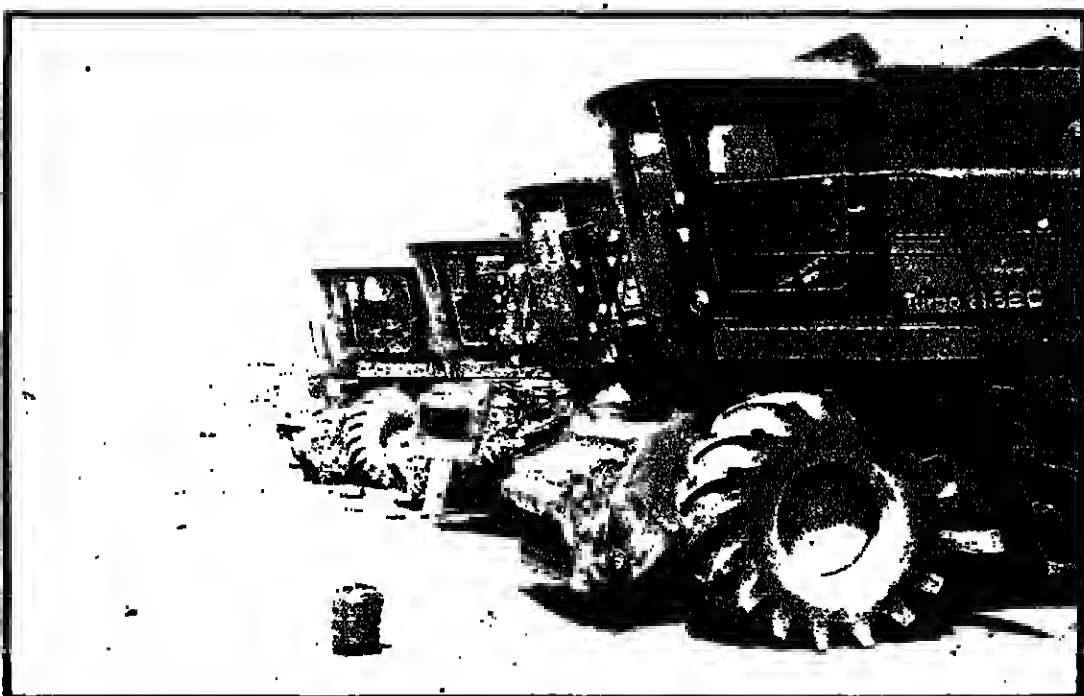
When the company took over the project from the government, it bought the equipment, the groundwater wells, the pumps, warehouses, vehicles and other inventory for JD 5.9 million. The company is repaying the government on the basis of JD 1.5 million a year. It also pays JD 5,000 at the beginning of each year as the land lease fee.

On prospects of profit, Annab said the cost for getting the project off the ground was high with a tremendous amount of development work involving a massive investment. Profits are projected to accelerate in the coming few years, he said.

Annab joins private sector entrepreneurs in the conviction that the government "should never go into a commercial venture."

"I haven't heard of a railway project which is profitable for the government which operates it. The government does not know how to make profit. The job of the government is to start a project, establish the infrastructure for it, then ask the private sector to take over."

"We took the project because there were roads and electricity already in place. If the project had not already started we would have been very hesitant to take it. The government started something and we picked it up."



Heavy machinery in Wadi Rum (Photo by Salameh Ne'matt)



Telephone lines pass through the desert, but proper communication is still too remote (Photo by Salameh Ne'matt)

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.			
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19		TODAY'S EVENTS		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT		EMERGENCIES			
PROGRAMME ONE 14:00 Koran 14:20 Programme review 14:25 Cartoons 15:05 Children's series 15:20 Religious programme 15:45 Ramadan puzzle 16:05 Arabic play 16:45 Cooking programme 17:00 Religious series 17:30 Health and Fasting 17:40 Arabic comedy 18:30 Ramadan contest 19:00 Religious programmes 19:30 Varieties programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Arabic series 21:30 Puzzles from all over the world 22:00 Historical series 23:00 News Summary in Arabic 23:10 Arabic series 24:00 Arabic play 01:00 Religious programme		21:00 The Musical in Review 22:00 Country Music 23:00 Classical Concerts 24:00 Close Down		18:20 Cairo (MS) 18:35 Damascus (AZ)		NIGHT DUTY			
BBC WORLD SERVICE 639, 720, 1323 KHz		EXHIBITIONS		PRAYER TIMES		NIGHT DUTY			
07:00 Newscast 07:30 Here's Humph 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Through My 07:50 World News Summary 08:00 24 08:00 News Summary 08:30 Personal View 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newscast 09:30 Meridian 10:00 World News 10:00 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From the Weeklies 10:45 Net- work UK 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News 12:45 Followed by Sports Roundup 12:45 Personal View 13:00 News Summary: Here's Humph 13:15 Letter from America 13:30 People and Politics 14:00 World News 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 Big Bands - The Singers 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio Newscast 15:15 Multitrack 3 15:45 Sports Roundup 16:00 World News 16:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Sum- mary 16:30 News UK 16:45 Sport- sworld cont. 16:50 Radio News- let 18:15 Sportsworld 19:00 World News 19:00 Commentary 19:15 Sport- sworld 19:30 World News 19:30 Sport Choice 20:15 Album Time 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newscast 21:30 Play of the Week: Tariffite 22:00 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: Sarcophagus, Part 2 23:00 World News 23:00 Twenty-Four- Hours News Summary 23:30 Meridian 24:00 News Summary followed by Squaring the Triangle 00:15 The Seven Ages of Man 00:30 People and Politics 01:00 World News		★ The British Council is showing an exhibition of work by British illustra- tors. There is also a continuous show- ing of the video "7 Illustrators at Work" throughout the exhibition. ★ Plastic Art Festival by 30 Jordanian and Arab artists at Tower Building. ★ Permanent book exhibition, at Tower Building, Jabel Amman, 3rd Circle. ★ National Book and Audiovisual exhibition at Vocational Training School, Ain Al Fasta.		This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart- ment at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.		06:18 Fajr 12:33 (Sunrise) Dhuhr 16:14 Asr 19:21 Maghreb 20:48 Isha		Amman governorate 891228 Dr. Ali As'ad 877919 Dr. A. Awad 846070 Dr. Jamal Abu Baker 746426 Dr. Issam Abu Rezig 611784 First pharmacy 669192 Ferdous pharmacy 778336 Al Asema pharmacy 637055 Nasrallah pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 636730 Yacoub pharmacy 644965 Shmeisani pharmacy 637660 TAXIS: Tajal taxi 640031 Venice taxi 644584 Asfour taxi 623230 Tamer taxi 813381 Nabide taxi 663003 Holiday taxi 663100 Sayed taxi 604422 Middle East taxi 604615	
PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Le chevalier de pardillon (French series) 19:00 News in French 19:15 Spectacular Bloopers 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Yes, Prime Minister 21:00 Documentary 21:30 News in English 21:50 Eurovision Song Contest 1988 from Dublin		VIDEO FILM ★ "Heimat" (German) at 8:30 p.m. at the Goethe Institute.		ARRIVALS 07:30 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 08:15 Agaba (RJ) 08:30 Tripoli (RJ) 08:30 Kuwait (RJ) 08:30 Damascus (RJ) 08:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ) 08:30 Dhahran (RJ) 08:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) 08:30 Cairo (RJ) 08:30 New York, Vienna (RJ) 08:30 Athens (RJ) 08:30 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 08:30 Tripoli (RJ)		HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akil Maternity, J. Amn 643441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 667271/9 Malheur 636140 Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4 Shmeisani Hospital 669313 University Hospital 845845/6 Al-Mustashir Hospital 667271/9 The Islamic, Asaf 664171/7 Al-Jahil, Asaf 664164/6 Italian, Al-Mushajir 77101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6 Army, Marik 891611/5 Queen Alia Hospital 602240/5 Amal Hospital 674155			
RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & stereo on 95.0 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-19		CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267 American Centre 644371 British Council 641520 French Cultural Centre 637099 Goethe Institute 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre 634026 Turkish Cultural Centre 639777 Haya Arts Centre 665195 Husseini Youth City 6671816 Y.W.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library 843555		OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) 12:30 Baghdad (IA) 14:35 Kuwait (KU) 14:40 Tripoli (LN) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 17:35 Cairo (MS) 18:00 Rome (AZ) 21:15 Frankfurt, Damascus (LH) 22:35 Paris, Damascus (AF)		GENERAL Jordan Television 773111/19 Radio Jordan 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism 642311 Hotel complaints 666412 Police complaints 661176 Telephone information 12 Jordan and Middle East calls 10 Overseas calls 17 Repair service 11			
VOICE OF AMERICA MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 12510 Hz		MUSEUMS "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.		DEPARTURES 08:00 Agaba (RJ) 08:15 Tripoli (RJ) 08:30 Vienna, New York (RJ) 08:30 Athens (RJ) 08:30 Paris (RJ) 08:30 Rome, Madrid (RJ) 08:30 Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 08:30 London (RJ) 08:30 Frankfurt (RJ) 08:30 Cairo (RJ) 08:30 Kuwait (KU) 08:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 08:30 Jeddah (RJ) 08:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)		MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in fils per kg. Apple (French) 420 / 360 Apple (green) 470 / 400 Apple (Lebanese) 300 / 250 Banana 300 / 240 Beans (Mushamir) 300 / 340 Beans 220 / 160 Beans (broad) 120 / 80 Cabbage 170 / 120 Carrot 160 / 120 Cauliflower (white) 220 / 160 Cherry (green) 750 / 650 Cucumbers 230 / 180 Dates (2 kgs) 600 / 500 Eggplants (large) 120 / 80 Eggplant (small) 140 / 100 Garlic (green) 300 / 150 Lemon 230 / 180 Mallow 220 / 180 Marrow 200 / 150 Onion (green) 160 / 120 Onion (dry) 120 / 80 Oranges (Mushamir) 240 / 200 Oranges (Shamouni) 160 / 120 Parsley 100 / 100 Peas 200 / 150 Pepper (hot) 300 / 250 Pepper (sweet) 220 / 160 Pistachio 130 / 100 Raddish 100 / 80 Spinach 120 / 80 Strawberry 1200 / 800 Tomatoes 350 / 300 Vine leaves 500 / 400			

Heritage festival to continue through Ramadan

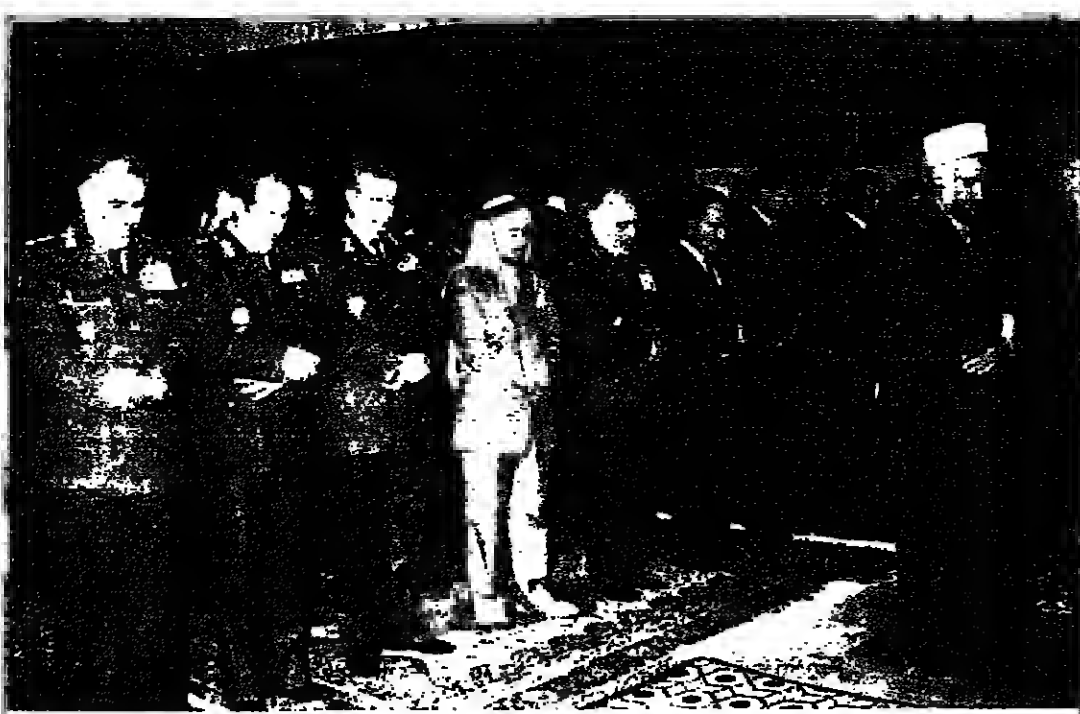
AMMAN (Petra) — The first festival of cultural heritage and Islamic books, inaugurated by Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday evening in Amman, will remain open until the end of the holy month of Ramadan, according to an official from the festival's management.

He said the festival which is set at the main square near the Roman Amphitheatre in Amman, will remain open to the public and all its activities will remain alive until the middle of May, when Ramadan ends.

The festival, which was organised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, displays books, Arabic handwriting, reliefs, photographs, Islamic documents and furniture as well as children's books, toys. It includes documentary film shows, national songs and dances by children, a "reading tent" for adults and children and selected cultural programmes for children.

The festival also includes a special wing for selling books and ornaments, and another for local popular Arabic sweets and drinks.

On the occasion of the festival, the Jordan Museum of Popular Traditions will be open for the public free of charge and the Armed Forces brass band will take part in the activities on a daily basis until the end of Ramadan, according to the official.



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday evening hosted an Iftar Banquet at Al Hussein Youth City in honour of senior officers from the Armed Forces, the Public Security, the Civil Defence and the Public Intelligence. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prince Faisal bin Al Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed bin Zaid, the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker and Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb. The photo shows the King and his guests performing the evening prayers prior to the iftar banquet (Petra photo)

WAJ set to ensure water supply to residents of Balqa governorate

SALT (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) is currently involved in projects and arrangements for ensuring constant supply of drinking water to the residents of the Balqa governorate, especially in the Jordan Valley region, according to WAJ director here.

He said that work is underway for drilling six artesian wells in the Balqa governorate, five of which are located at the Deir Alla, South Shuneh and Salt areas.

He said that the governorate had been divided into five zones to ensure fair and continuous water supply to all regions.

The first zone which includes Salt and Eira and Yaraqa towns will receive 9,525 cubic metres of water a day; the second zone including Kharabshah, Zay, Al Andia will receive 3,366 cubic metres; the third zone including Baqa'a Refugee Camp and population centres around it will receive 3,900 cubic metres a day, the fourth zone including Deir

Alla and neighbouring regions will receive 4,130 cubic metres a day and the fifth region, which includes South Shuneh and the neighbouring areas, will receive 7,360 cubic metres of water a day.

He said that these population centres being located in hot areas require constant supply of water in the summer season.

According to the director, the WAJ office in Salt is supervising work on replacing old parts of the existing water network in the Balqa governorate.

Junblatt condoles widow of slain PLO leader

AMMAN (R) — Lebanese Druze leader Walid Junblatt and his Jordanian-born wife Jiji Friday visited the widow of slain Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) military commander Khalil Al Wazir.

Junblatt, who heads the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), told Reuters by telephone

that he had visited Intissar Al Wazir at a house outside Amman where the PLO commander's family are receiving condolences.

Wazir, better known as Abu Jihad, was killed at his Tunis home on April 16, by a hit squad widely believed to have been sent by Israel. He was buried in Damascus last Wednesday.

'Jordan's foreign policy based on mutual respect'

MADRID (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador in Madrid Dr. Mobammad Al Udwan said here Thursday that Jordan's relations with Arab and foreign states were based on the principle of mutual respect and joint cooperation.

In a lecture he delivered here Thursday at the International Affairs Society, Udwan also explained Jordan's intensive and continued efforts, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, to reach a settlement for the Palestinian question and to establish

peace in the Middle East. The ambassador also reviewed Jordan's strategic role at the international level and added that Jordan's foreign policy was characterised by non-alignment.

He also reviewed principles of Jordan's foreign policy and Jordan's role towards Arab causes. The lecture was attended by a number of university professors and students, key political figures as well as Arab and foreign diplomats in Madrid.

Jerash, U.S. city to sign twin-city agreement

JERASH (AP) — A twin-city agreement has been reached between the historical city of Jerash and the city of North Mankato, in Minnesota, USA, to strengthen cooperation and friendship ties between the two cities.

The Jerash mayor has received the twinning document from the

North Mankato mayor. Under the twinning agreement, the two cities and their inhabitants will seek to promote cultural, educational, industrial and tourist exchange between them with a view to strengthen cooperation, stability and world peace.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

KHASAWNEH MEETS ENVOYS: Minister of Information Dr. Hani Al Khasawneh Thursday met separately with the British, Austrian, Japanese and Italian ambassadors in Amman.

HAMZEH TO HEAD TEAM: Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh will lead Jordan's delegations to the meetings of the 41st session of the World Health Assembly which will open in Geneva on May 2. The session will be preceded by an extraordinary meeting of the Arab Health Ministers Council in Geneva during which the ministers will coordinate their stands and exchange views on common health issues.

SUPPORT FOR UPRISING: A total of JD 21,572 have been collected from a special charity Food Day, organised on April 8 by the women's group of the Popular Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Uprising in the occupied Arab territories. The committee will be organising other activities such as exhibitions and sports to collect more financial support for the uprising.

1 KILLED IN ACCIDENT: A 25-year-old man was killed and three other people were injured in a road accident that occurred Thursday at Tawaneh district 20 kilometres north of Tafleeh. The accident involved the collision of two private cars which sustained heavy damage.

FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY: A new administrative committee for the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society was elected Friday. The new committee comprise: Bahjat Al Talhouni (Senate member), Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayed, Fared Al Sa'ad, Dr. Khaled Hamshawi, Mahmoud Al Ma'aytah, Walid Khayyat, Walid Mustafa, Michael Masannat, and Dr. Zuhair Abu Faris.

DISABLED RIDER: A British woman born without arms demonstrated her horseriding technique to handicapped Jordanian youths Friday at a riding school near the capital. Philippa Verry, 26, from Berkshire, England, controlling a light-brown Arabian horse with her toes, was performing for the charity Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA). "Her display is an inspiration and encouragement to me and to all my disabled colleagues," said 12-year-old Ahmed from his wheelchair.

Iraqis in Jordan celebrate Fao victory

AMMAN (Petra) — The Iraqi community living in Jordan Thursday celebrated the Iraqi president's 51st birthday and the Iraqi Armed Forces victories at the Fao peninsula.

A celebration held on the occasion was attended by Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh and Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein. The ambassador made a speech

on the occasion paying tribute to the Iraqi Armed Forces for their defence of the Arab land in the face of Iranian aggression and outlining Iraq's achievements despite the eight-year-old war.

The participants in the celebration sent a cable of good wishes to the Iraqi president on the occasion of his birthday and hailed the great victories of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Murderer executed

AMMAN — A criminal who had killed his 85-year-old grandfather and 85-year-old grandmother in order to steal their money was hanged at Mahatta prison in Amman Thursday, according to a report in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The report said that the man identified as 21-year-old Samir M.A. committed the crime in Irbid refugee camp where the victims used to live not far away from the murderer's home.

The crime was committed on Aug. 10 last year and the man was apprehended sometime later when he was about to leave the

country, the report said. The report said the murderer had used a shotgun to kill the old man and his wife and conceal their bodies which were later found.

He had succeeded in stealing JD 600 which he had found in the house of the victims.

According to the report, the murderer made a visit to Damascus soon after the crime where he spent half the money there, and was about to leave for a second trip later on when he was apprehended at the border post of Ramtha and brought for trial in Amman.

Post offices to handle applications for Mu'ta

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Post offices around the country will, on May 4, start the process of handling applications by students wishing to enrol at Mu'ta University near Karak for the 1988-1989 academic year, according to a university announcement.

The announcement said that the applications, which will be for joining the military wing of Mu'ta University in the coming

academic year are to be forwarded by the post offices to the university against a small fee. Post offices in Jordan offer a similar service in the summer once the results of the Tawjihi examinations are out normally towards the end of July.

Students wishing to join Jordanian universities apply for seats through the post offices in accordance with certain given procedures.

University of Jordan festival opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan will Saturday open its annual festival which will include national songs and dances, seminars and lectures.

A university spokesman said that all faculties will take part in the event, which is an annual tradition projecting the achievements and the development of all departments.

He said that the students had set up exhibitions of books, flowers and cultural heritage and will take part in the evening variety shows.

A seminar on higher education in Jordan will be among the different functions and will be held Wednesday, May 4, according to the spokesman.

Tafleeh prepares to fight possible locust invasion

TAFILEH (Petra) — Precautionary measures and preparations to combat any possible invasion of locusts on the southern regions of Jordan were the subject of discussion at a meeting held Thursday in Tafleeh under the chairmanship of Tafleeh Governor Aref Ershaid.

The governor said four centres have been set up in a number of

districts in the Tafleeh governorate to monitor the movement of locusts in neighbouring countries.

The khamesinic weather, which affected the Kingdom and other neighbouring countries during the past few days, might have helped the movement of locusts towards the north as swarms of locusts were pushed along by high and hot winds.

CAEU chief outlines achievements during his 5-year term

Obeidi hopes council meeting will endorse new trade programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The secretary general of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), Mahdi Al Obeidi, Friday expressed hope that the forthcoming meeting of the CAEU General Assembly will endorse an integrated programme for promoting trade among Arab countries and developing the existing Arab Common Market to play a leading role in inter-Arab trade.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, at the end of his five-year mandate as CAEU secretary general, Obeidi said that the coming council meeting is expected also to look into other issues such as a unified Arab customs law which would offer facilities for Arab trade exchanges.

Integration among Arab countries in economic and trade affairs, are essential elements for an all-out unity among them, Obeidi, who leaves for home in Iraq Saturday, said.

Obeidi said that the Arab Common Market was set up by a CAEU General Assembly decision in 1964 and during his mandate he had been trying to stimulate the market's activities by removing all restrictions imposed on goods traded among Arab states.

He said a great deal of progress has been made over the past five years but political differences among Arab states still impede a more prosperous relationship in

trade. "It is imperative that resolutions adopted by the Amman Arab summit in 1980, concerning economic activity among Arab states, should be implemented if economic integration among Arab countries is to be achieved," Obeidi stressed.

Obeidi said during the past five years joint companies formed by the CAEU had been made active, working towards bolstering inter-Arab economic cooperation.

These companies are: the Arab Mining Company, the Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances, the Arab Company for the Development of Animal Wealth and the Arab Company for Industrial Investment.

Obeidi said he can describe the work of these companies as very successful "but they require further backing from all Arab states."

Obeidi said that towards the end of 1986, Arab ministers of economy held a meeting in Am-



Mahdi Al Obeidi

man during which they laid down the outline for a programme designed to promote inter-Arab economic and trade relations, stressed the need for Arab countries to coordinate their development schemes, to launch joint projects and to open the way for marketing Arab products in their countries.

"During my mandate as CAEU secretary general, sufficient time and effort were devoted to research work in economic fields, especially in areas where economic integration among Arab countries is involved," Obeidi noted.

He said in the past five years, the CAEU set up an office for general studies and policies, held seminars on inter-Arab economic work and conducted research

work on promoting the economy in the Arab World.

"The CAEU also drew up a 1986-1990 five-year plan for the implementation of the ministers' programme which is seen as instrumental in enhancing economic and trade relations among Arab states," Obeidi added.

Obeidi said the CAEU drew up an integrated programme for industrial coordination among Arab states, but so far this programme has not been endorsed by Arab countries.

The programme he said, entails the setting up of joint industrial projects, the investment of Arab capital in Arab countries and opening the opportunity for Arab workers to move more freely within the Arab region.

It was envisaged that such programme, would be implemented in cooperation with the Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, Obeidi added.

He said the CAEU has been cooperating closely with the Central Arab Statistics Bureau to provide information and data, results of research work, pamphlets and publications on economic and trade issues to all Arab countries.

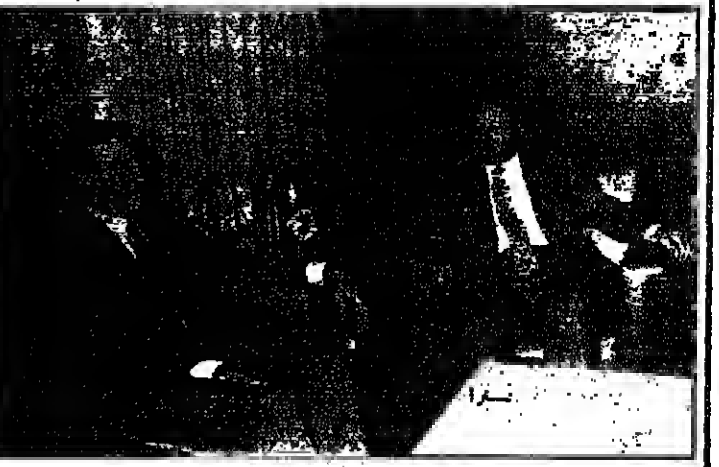
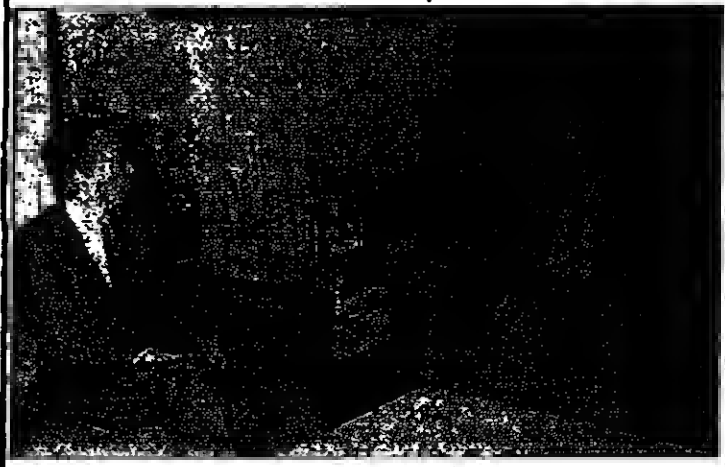
Obeidi appealed to Arab countries to prevent political differences from affecting inter-Arab economic relations and to do all they can to enhance the CAEU and its branches and affiliated companies.



SPEAKERS MEET ENVOYS: Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi meets at his office Thursday with Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Jordan Mohammad Al Isa (top left). They discussed Jordanian-Saudi Arabian relations. The Lower House of Parliament's Speaker Akef Al Fayed also held talks in Amman



Thursday with the Saudi ambassador (top right). Fayed later met with the ambassadors of Japan (below left) and Austria (below right) to Jordan to discuss their country's relations with the Kingdom.



JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat. — April 30, 1988

8:30 Yes Prime Minister

9:00 Documentary

9:30 News in English

9:50 Eurovision Song Contest (1988) from Dublin — Ireland.

11:30 Feature Film

Sun. — May 1, 1988

8:30 My Husband and I

9:10 World in Flames
The episode describes the end of Hitler's dreams at the Russian and North African fronts.

10:00 News in English

10:20 O'Hara

They Shoot Witnesses, Don't They
Shaver's nephew Kevin witnesses his mother get shot in a bank robbery and doesn't identify the criminals because he is afraid for his life. O'Hara and Shaver must find the bad guys before they find Kevin.

11:30 Rich man, poor man

Mon. — May 2, 1988

8:30 Perfect Stranger

9:10 Secret Army

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film
The Last Glory Day's of Troy

Starring: Steve Reeves

Classical movie focuses on the glory days of Troy and the struggles between the nobles in that period of time.

Tue. — May 3, 1988

8:30 I Married Dora

Peter Farrell, a widowed architect, commits an unorthodox act of convenience for the sake of his two kids, Kate and Will. He marries his Central American housekeeper, Dora, thereby wreaking hilarious havoc on domestic tranquillity.

9:10 Stand by! Light! Camera! Action!
The last episode

10:00 News in English

10:20 Murder She Wrote

The second part of last week's episode

11:30 Rich man, poor man

Wed. — May 4, 1988

8:30 Guinness Records

9:10 Hooper man

9:30 Twilight Zone

Magical realm of mystery and imagination as intriguing as it is unpredictable; a flight of fancy captured on film. We don't just watch the Twilight Zone, we enter it.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Ford
This episode tells the story of

Fri. — May 6, 1988

8:30 Growing Pains

The Mom who Knew too Much
On a girls day out to the beauty salon, Carol trusts Maggie and tells her a secret. Maggie breaks the confidence by telling Jason.

9:10 Magnum

10:00 News in English

10:20 Falcon Crest

The Nanny didn't die. She is still in a coma. Mallea is in a very bad condition. The gang asked Richard for a ransom so as to give him back his son.

11:30 Rich man, poor man



O'Hara — (left to right) starring Pat Morita as O'Hara, Robert Clobessy as Shaver and Rachel Ticotin as Teresa Storm

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation, established 1987.

الجزيرة الأردنية السياسية اليومية المستقلة المنشورة بالإنجليزية من قبل مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية، تأسست 1987.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 666265-2

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: King urges unity

KING Hussein met with the Jordanian family at an iftar banquet in Zarqa when he urged the nation for further demonstration of cohesion and solidarity and hard work for a more prosperous future. The King called for this solidarity at a time when the nation is confronting external danger and said that this country will remain steadfast and will continue to form a fortress in the face of all invaders. This solidarity is based firmly on a strong relationship founded on confidence and affection and the sense of belonging to the nation and serving Arab people to achieve the aspired goals. King Hussein was keen to reiterate Jordan's pride in the Arab people of Palestine and their uprising in the face of Israeli atrocities and continued occupation. He said that Jordan will not act on behalf of the PLO and will not represent the Palestinians in any talks for a Middle East settlement. This means that Jordan is adhering to its firm national commitments and is true to the Arab cause. Such policies and such solidarity and cohesion among the members of the Jordanian family have aroused the hatred and the anger of the Israeli enemy and Israeli allies whose conspiracies and plots against this country will end in total failure.

Al Dustour: Jordan's commitment

KING Hussein addressed the nation Wednesday re-emphasising Jordan's firm policies towards the Middle East question and the current Arab affairs. He said that Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian people but will not act on behalf of the Palestinians or their representatives at any future negotiations for a settlement. He said that there can be no alternative to the projected international peace conference for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The King said Jordan seeks to convene this conference for the sake of helping the Palestinians regain their lands and rights and wants all concerned parties including the PLO to take part in the negotiations for a permanent peace. Any solution for the problem cannot be achieved without the active participation of the Palestinian people and their representatives. Jordan, the King said adheres to this policy in true commitment to the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and its objectives; and continues to demonstrate its adherence to these principles through its support and backing for the Palestinian people. The King reiterated this position in order to forestall any attempt by Israel and its allies aimed at imposing their will and their hegemony on the Arab Nation. The King's speech, coincided with a statement by the U.N. secretary general who said that the world organisation remains the only positive framework for settling the Middle East question through an international conference.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel vs. Arab Nation

THE Israelis are trying by all means and with all terrorist actions to stifle the voice of the resistance and suppress the uprising in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This policy is confronted by a steadfast people determined to carry on the struggle for liberation and freedom. This Palestinian people is backed by Jordan and the Arab Nation which has demonstrated solidarity in the face of Israel's policies and which has realised that there is no alternative to unity of ranks and cohesion in the face of external challenges and enemies. Jordan is no doubt supporting the Palestinians and extending all possible help to the Arab population under Israeli rule to help regain Arab land and Arab right. Jordan which has devoted its time and effort towards promoting Arab causes succeeded at the Amman summit meeting in achieving this solidarity and consensus among Arab leaders on means of confronting the conspiracies and challenges. Jordan, as King Hussein said, has no ambition and no objective except to strengthen the Arab ranks and help the oppressed people of Palestine to regain their full rights and their own lands.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: A proud fortress

JORDAN takes pride in the fact that it serves as a fortress wrecking all attempts directed against the Arab Nation and liquidating the Palestine problem. This country takes pride that it will remain steadfast in the face of all attempts to force it to capitulate or give up its national stand in defence of the Palestinian people's rights. Jordan will remain steadfast in its struggle to achieve peace based on justice and will continue to strive to regain usurped Arab rights and to help the Palestinians determine their own future on their own land. It is because Jordan continues to adhere to its commitments and pan-Arab principles that it has been exposed to harmful campaigns launched by the Israeli propaganda machine and spearheaded by Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir who alleges that Jordan remains a stumbling block in the path of peace. This harmful campaign is doomed to failure and can never succeed in dislodging Jordan from its present position, and can never force this country to abandon the idea of an international peace conference which aims to achieve a just and durable peace in our region. As King Hussein said, Jordan will not act on behalf of the PLO in the coming peace process and will never act on behalf of the Palestinian people who should determine their own future through their own representatives.

Al Dustour: King and family

KING Hussein stood amongst his people and before the Jordanian family in Zarqa expressing his deep pride in his people and reiterating Jordan's commitment to the Arab principles and goals. Jordan, as King Hussein said, has been supporting the Palestinian people with all its might and over the years and will continue to do that to enable this people to determine their own future on their own land. King Hussein told the nation that Jordan will continue to uphold the martyr's message and will remain a shield protecting the Arab Nation from foreign aggression. Jordan has been the country of martyrs led by Al Hussein Ibn Ali who spent his life and devoted his efforts to achieve the principles of the Great Arab Revolt. It is also the home town and the burial ground of Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein who fell as a martyr in defence of Palestine and in the course of his struggle to achieve unity and freedom for the Arabs. The King paid tribute to Iraq and its people and armed forces. He said that Iraq was also defending the Arabs on the eastern flank, and abhorring Persian dreams of an empire and deterring Iran's aggression and ambitious schemes.

Uprising underscores human rights issues

The following article is reprinted from the magazine, Tanmiya. The magazine is published by the Geneva-based The Welfare Association, a philanthropic foundation established in 1983.

THE UPRISING in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank that began on December 9 has been costly indeed in terms of Palestinian human rights. Violations of Palestinian rights practised before the uprising were carried out with even greater force, and new methods were introduced as the occupation authorities sought to "contain" the protests.

Accurate information on the number of Palestinian dead and injured was hard to come by, as were figures on the numbers of those imprisoned.

Detentions, bullets, beatings
Thousands of Palestinians have been detained — according to the West Bank human rights group

Al Haq, at least 3,000 had been detained by early this year. Some were released after a few days, but hundreds have been detained for longer periods. In a new development, the occupation authorities resorted to summary trials of the detainees, which led Gaza lawyers to boycott the courts in protest.

Amnesty International protested the arbitrary arrests stating that "the summary justice being handed out by military courts violated international standards." Both Al Haq and Amnesty protested the collective nature of arrests and other punishments.

The number of those injured during the uprising may never be known. In just one week in January, the Union of Palestinian

Medical Relief Committees said it had treated 2,599 patients in the West Bank and Gaza, including many suffering from tear gas inhalation and beatings.

Also in one week in January, UNRWA said its clinics in Gaza had treated more than 120 Palestinians who had been beaten, including a woman of 80, a man of 70 and children as young as four. "At least 24 of the cases were referred to hospitals for further treatment." In an earlier one-week period, UNRWA's Gaza field office "reported over 125 known cases of serious injuries, from gunshot and rubber-bullet wounds, beatings and the effects of tear gas."

International lawyers attending a conference organised by Al Haq in January 1988 to examine the legal status of the occupied territories, issued a statement that the rule of law was "seriously

compromised" by the policy of beatings, and the secretary general of the International Commission of Jurists Niall McDermott described it as "utterly illegal." Illegal deportation orders against nine Palestinians also drew widespread international criticism.

Children most at risk

Many of those killed, detained or beaten up are children. Well before the uprising, there had been reports of the mistreatment of children and young adults by the occupation forces. Al Haq has issued two reports since the mid-1980s on practices at Al Faraj prison on the West Bank, which appear aimed at breaking the spirit of youngsters, while the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre set up by the Arab Studies Society in Jerusalem issued a report in June 1987 on conditions at "Ansar 2" deten-

tion camp in the Gaza Strip. Also in the summer of 1987, the Prisoners Friends Association published *Children in Israeli Military Prisons*, with testimonies from 18 children on their experiences. The report, introduced by Rev. Canon Riah el-Assal and with a preface by the American theologian Dr. Rosemary Radford Ruether, noted that "once a child has been arrested the probability of rearrest is very great," as after the age of 16 the arrest is marked on the youngsters' official ID card. Children were often taken from home or from school, detained without contact with attorney or parents for 18 days, and beaten while in detention.

Support from within

In a demonstration of the strong ties that bind Palestinians under occupation with their brethren elsewhere, the Palesti-

nian Arab community in Israel organised a one-day strike on December 21 and large demonstrations were organised in Nazareth and other towns in January. Several Palestinians were arrested, and two of Umm El Fahm's residents were imprisoned for three months under administrative detention orders following the December demonstration.

What UNRWA described as the "biggest outpouring of donations" came from the Israeli Arab population in the Galilee. The "Triangle" and the Negev. Popular committees raised funds and organised truckloads of food-stuffs which UNRWA was delivering to refugee camps in both Gaza and the West Bank. "Many of the camps that had been under prolonged curfew had suffered serious shortages of food."

The politics of the price of oil

By Thomas Stauffer

THE price of oil is still the \$64 billion question — affecting not only energy consumers but also the political balance in the Middle East. For OPEC the price question seems to be quite simple: "to hike or not to hike"; while for Israel and its U.S. supporters, obsessed increasingly with rising U.S. dependency upon imported oil, the question is recast — "to tax or not to tax".

But in reality even OPEC is cleft on the issue. The Saudis and Kuwaitis believe oil prices are about right — or, perhaps, even a little too high. This "dovish" posture contrasts sharply with that of the OPEC "hawks", Libya, Algeria and Iran. These persistently press for lower production quotas and higher prices.

Ironically there is a rare consensus among most Arabs and Zionists on the question of oil prices — most agree that oil prices are now too low — but for diametrically opposite reasons.

The divergence in views on price is fundamental; for Zionists the oil price is a political issue, for the OPEC hawks it is a short-term tactical question, for the OPEC doves price is the key to their plans for long-term markets. Jewish analysts view oil prices as dangerously, almost terrifyingly, low, because at \$18 per barrel the U.S. is becoming re-added to "cheap oil." The data support these concerns: The U.S. imports almost 7 million barrels per day more than at the time of the 1973 embargo. U.S. domestic oil production has fallen 1 mbpd over the last two years, is still declining, and the number of oil rigs looking for "secure domestic oil" has dropped from 4,350 in 1981 to less than 1,000 today.

There is now growing pressure to curb oil imports through a large import tariff — between \$5 and \$10 per barrel, and Zionist groups are newly allied with domestic U.S. oil producers in the campaign against "insecure sources of supply." Harvard's Energy and Environment Policy Centre, financed *inter alia* by Mitchell Energy Company, an affected U.S. producer, has issued a series of well publicised studies calling for curbs against cheap foreign, i.e. Arab, oil. The same theme is echoed by the Centre for Strategic Studies in Washington, in papers and seminars run for government officials and businessmen, again reflecting the same confluence of forces.

Support for curbs against low-priced oil in the U.S. is more complex, however: Jesse Jackson also proposes to curb oil imports, a platform reportedly introduced after a long meeting in Texas with local oil producers. Conversely, Michael Dukakis, whose total commitment to Israel is unwavering, remains opposed — Massachusetts is heated with imported fuel oil.

"One man's meat is another man's poison." Rising U.S. imports and declining production, feared by the Israelis, are seen as benefits, signs of strategic suc-

cess, by the key OPEC players, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Both oppose price increases. Both feel that oil prices were in fact too high, and both share again a common interest — in opposition to their OPEC brethren. Their target is painfully clear — they want to keep prices low; not in order to foster addition in the U.S. but to curb competition from non-OPEC oil sources, like the North Sea.

Except for the brief interlude after Yaman's dismissal in 1986, both have consistently obstructed

"Saudi Arabia and Kuwait share a common target: both want to keep prices low."

the hawks' repeated pushes for price increases. Thus OPEC disarray or rumours of OPEC's "collapse" are grist for their mill. Fears of further price declines make investors even less willing to drill for expensive oil elsewhere, and such rumours and fears actually reinforce the disincentive effect of low prices.

The data here also support the Saudi-Kuwaiti perspective. New sources of non-OPEC energy are slowing: Only a handful of new nuclear reactors are scheduled for completion, development on both sides of the North Sea has been curtailed, and worldwide drilling activity has dropped "dramatically." The benefits are real, but are repaid slowly as energy markets readjust slowly.

The bitterness within OPEC is also real, and quite immediate. Non-Arab members vociferously resent that Iraq has been assigned *de facto* all of the increased demand for

OPEC over the last 18 months or so. All other members resent the unilateral price cuts imposed by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait after December 1985, especially the Iranians and the Arab bawks, whose reserves are lower and thus are less able to benefit from moves to strengthen long-term markets. The Saudis and the Kuwaitis hold all the trump cards. In the current soft oil market their perception of their own short-term versus long-term revenue needs remains the critical and overriding parameter in oil price-

ing. Their some 10 mbpd of surplus capacity permits them at will to cap any upward price movement, so the hawks have been effectively neutralised. Unless there is major destruction of export facilities in the Gulf, the two states can dictate the price trend over the coming years.

The political dimension of oil pricing is still dominant. The Israeli fear that low prices lay the predicate for a reprise of 1973, so that they simultaneously play down U.S. dependence — "three per cent of U.S. energy comes from the Gulf" — while militating for restrictions. For the Saudis, growing U.S. dependence is one sign on their success, but because it means low prices stimulate demand and discourage competition, while the other OPEC states are almost bystanders in the debate over policy and response — Middle East International, London.

West Europe inches towards common market arms

European Community plans to forge a unified market in civilian goods by 1992 have eclipsed low-key moves to create a common market in armaments. David Buchan looks at the quiet institutional war over efforts to internationalise defence procurement.

BRUSSELS — Quiet moves are afoot to try to create something like a European common market in armaments.

It is hardly surprising these moves should so far have been "drowned out" by the European Community's well-tramped plans to forge a single market in civilian goods by 1992. The work on opening up Europe's heavily fragmented defence market has proceeded in a slower, more secretive and confused manner than parallel efforts in the civil field. But there are signs it is slipping into slightly higher gear.

In contrast to the countless calls over the past 30 years for the integration of the non-military European market, the first serious proposal for a common market in arms came only last year, in a report prepared for the 13 European members of NATO which belong to the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG). This included a call for European governments to collaborate more on military research and to open more of their \$25 billion-\$30 billion annual procurement of defence equipment

to bids from each other's companies, so that competition could help contain spiralling weapons costs and make limited military budgets go further.

More radical

This proposal may seem merely to parallel current EC moves to open up hitherto restricted public procurement in telecommunications, energy, transport and construction. But it is more radical because it strikes at a more inextricable relationship between governments and their national defence contractors than exists in the civil field — a relationship traditionally justified on security grounds.

Predictably, defence ministers of the IEPG countries did not swallow this radical pill at once. But they did at least ask their officials to prepare "an action plan," which they are due to consider this autumn. So work is now in train on such issues as when and what defence contracts should be publicly advertised, what criteria governments should use in awarding contracts, how

less industrialised IEPG members like Greece, Turkey and Portugal can be assured of getting a just return, or fair share, in a new climate of freer competition, and whether there should be common funding of military R & D.

All this IEPG work may yet end up in the dustbin of history. That is has already ended up there is, however, the misleading impression given by Henk Vredeling, the chairman of the group that prepared the IEPG study. Vredeling, a former Dutch defence minister and EC Commissioner, recently pronounced himself so disappointed with IEPG defence ministers' follow-up to his own report that he had concluded that the only road to greater European cooperation in defence lay through the European Community.

Here is where the confusion begins. Unlike the civil field where the EC holds undisputed sway, three institutions are vying to play some role in European defence — the IEPG, the EC Commission and Western European Union (WEU) which has the U.K., France, West Germany, Italy and the Benelux as members and is shortly expected to ask Spain and Portugal to join. However, each organisation has limitations almost as big as its

ambitions in the defence field. This is particularly apparent now.

Defence consultants

For instance, the IEPG which has a clear mandate to act in the area of defence equipment is trying to take wing as an institution. But its member governments are reluctant to let it have any more secretariat than one U.K. civil servant who spends one third of his time on IEPG business. WEU has an equally clear defence mandate, though it is more policy than equipment oriented. But at the moment it is the prisoner of an Anglo-French row about its location and cannot hire new staff. One bizarre result of this is that a Belgian arms control and security expert, Professor Georges Delcoigne, who was to have been hired by WEU is now to be employed by Jacques Delors, the French president of the EC Commission, as a consultant. In contrast to the two other institutions, the Brussels Commission has the money, the men (10,000 in total), but no crystal-clear mandate to involve itself in defence.

The very fact that Delors should be hiring outside defence consultants may be a red rag to Communist and Green Euro-

MPs, in addition to discomfiting the neutral Irish, who all claim the Commission's activities should be purely civil. In fact, Delors, who shares his countrymen's general desire to give the EC a security dimension, already has several people inside the Berlaymont working on defence issues. Though defence is excluded from the Rome treaty, the 1986 Single European Act (article 30) adds defence to foreign policy as a proper area for EC cooperation and pledges member states "to maintain the technological and industrial conditions necessary for their security." Though his proposal for a special EC summit on security in the wake of the October 1986 Superpower meeting at Reykjavik was crushingly ignored by EC governments, Delors is quietly redefining himself and the Commission for the day when a call to arms might come.

It is in fact dawdling on some European defence officials presently labouring on the draft action plan for the IEPG that the EC's experience with the 1992 programme could be of real use to them. As one senior U.K. defence official asks, if there were to be a freer European defence market, how would you prevent such things?

— Financial Times feature.

Decline for America? It depends on Americans

By Paul Kennedy

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut — One of the mixed blessings of having written a best seller, "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers," is the ensuing array of interpretations and misinterpretations of what it is saying.

My book has been variously described as "supremely well timed" and a "surprise," although it can hardly be both. From Aryan supremacists to fall-earth believers, groups across the country have written to say that it reinforces their message. Liberal economists have expressed doubts about its militarist and mercantilist tendencies. On the

other hand, the Reaganite right has denounced it as "liberal defeatism." It is all rather odd.

Perhaps the greatest misinterpretation has been the conservatives' attack for its "economic determinism," and for (in their view) postulating the "inevitable" decline of the United States on economic grounds. A more careful reading and somewhat more thought on their part ought to have suggested that the historical causation that the book analyses points to a quite different interpretation of what "determines" national decline.

The real distinction that they have missed is between the consequences of economic trends

and the causes of those trends.

If a nation becomes so indebted that it loses its creditworthiness; if its manufacturing base shrinks so much that it cannot produce goods (for example, microchips) needed for its own industry and its defence forces; if its currency has less and less value on international exchanges; if it devotes too much of its resources to consumption and defence spending, at the cost of long-term investment; if it produces fewer and fewer engineers and more and more lawyers and dentists and stock jobbers — then sooner or later all that is going to have serious effects on the wealth and strength of the nation.

If that is "economic determinism," so be it. It sounds more like common sense to me.

But nothing in my argument says that the causes of such trends are irreversible and inevitable. Like Spain in the 1600s and Britain in the 1890s, the United States today has certain options open to it in order to reinvigorate its productive base and meet the challenge posed by faster growing economies of other countries.

America could close the awful federal deficit (by higher taxes, if necessary). It could redirect national resources from consumption into savings (by altering the tax structure). It could encourage a lot more investment in

commercial research and development (if need be, even at the cost of military research and development). It could make serious efforts to increase the number of native American engineers, and massively to boost the scientific and mathematical skills of 17-year-olds (although that again would cost money). It could increase the school year from the present 185 days to something closer to the Japanese standard: about 240 days.

All these things could be done — if the people and their political representatives wanted it. But when I suggest this package of policies to audiences across the country, I hear murmurs of disbe-

lief and disagreement.

Previous great powers lost their productive vitality not because their decline was economically "determined," but because cultural and ideological prejudices, unwillingness to adapt to new methods, a propensity to spend on the present (consumption and defence) rather than on the future (investment) all combined to prevent a renewal of the nation's productive base.

Are Americans ready to follow that historical pattern, or do they want to leave history? The writer is a professor of history at Yale. His comment is reprinted from *The New York Times*.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Top East Germans in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — A delegation from the ruling Communist Party of East Germany is visiting Israel at the invitation of the Israeli Communist Party Rakah but has no plans to meet government officials, a Rakah spokesman said Thursday. "There are very good relations between our two parties and we try to arrange mutual visits. But it is clear the visitors from the GDR (German Democratic Republic) will not meet government officials while here," said spokesman Uzi Borstein. The three-man delegation headed by Central Committee Member Achim Becker arrived Tuesday for a week.

Ethiopia, Sudan hold reconciliation talks

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopian and Sudanese officials Thursday began five days of talks on their diplomatic differences, including charges that each side is supporting rebels opposed to the other's government. In the only public comments expected before the end of the meeting, both delegations seemed optimistic and friendly. "At this particular time Ethiopia-Sudanese relations are at a crossroad," Ethiopian Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayih said.

Police smash Libyan recruiting racket

NEW DELHI (R) — Police have smashed a racket that duped Indians into taking factory jobs in Libya where they were instead conscripted into the Libyan army, a senior police officer said Thursday. Deputy Police Commissioner Anand Kanth said in a telephone interview 97 Indians paid a recruiting agency in New Delhi for factory jobs in Libya and ended up in army camps there. He said three people, including a police constable, had been arrested and efforts are being made to bring the deceived workers home. Kanth said the Indians went to Libya last December after paying R.K. Enterprises, a New Delhi-based employment agency, 12,000 to 15,000 rupees (\$920 to \$1,150) for jobs in a leather factory. Instead, they were taken to army camps and told to undergo military training. Some of the men from the North Indian state of Uttar Pradesh escaped and fled to the Indian embassy in Tripoli, he said. Forty of them returned to India in the last few days. About 50 others were still in Libya, although all had left the army camps and were either waiting to return home or had found jobs in factories, Kanth said.

Italy revokes order to seize suspect grapefruit

ROME (AP) — Health officials who ordered the seizure of all grapefruits on sale in Italy said Thursday that the blue substance found injected into some fruit in Rome was not poisonous.

Italian health officials triggered an alert in the European Economic Community (EEC) when they reported Tuesday that they had found six poisoned grapefruits, and that it appeared to be an act of sabotage aimed at Israeli exports.

However, the Health Ministry said Thursday that lab tests determined the substance was methylene blue, a non-toxic biological stain also used as an antidote for cyanide poisoning.

The Health Ministry revoked the ban on grapefruit sales Thursday evening after government laboratories completed all their tests on the tainted fruit.

Authorities had found the six tainted grapefruits after a caller warned a Rome newspaper that the fruit at a Rome supermarket had been poisoned.

Health Minister Donat Cattin ordered the seizure of grapefruits nationwide when three laboratory mice died after eating blue pulp from some of the grapefruits.

Greece holds Israeli after attempt on PLO official

ATHENS (Agencies) — Greek police have arrested an Israeli citizen and are questioning him about an assassination attempt against a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official.

A police spokesman identified the Israeli as Isaac Farahri and said he was arrested at Athens international airport Thursday morning.

Farahri was refusing to answer to any questions about an attempt Wednesday night against Ismat Sahri, first secretary at the PLO diplomatic mission in Athens.

Police said Sahri had identified Farahri as the man who tried to kill him. The PLO official told

Reuters in a telephone interview that a man and a woman brandishing guns had approached him as he left his home with a friend.

"When they saw us they fled in a car," he said. "Before driving away they told me they were Israelis. I was also carrying a weapon. It was a very tense situation."

An official PLO statement accused the couple of being agents of the Israeli secret service, Mossad, and seeking to assassinate Sahri.

The statement said the Greek authorities were notified of the incident and later arrested the suspect.

Reagan faces tough battle in Congress over Saudi deal

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan faces a fight in Congress over his proposed \$825 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia in the face of congressional protests over the Saudi purchase of Chinese missiles.

"Blood may flow over this thing unless an understanding is reached and assurances are given by the Saudis on those missiles," one congressional aide told Reuters after Reagan officially proposed the U.S.-Saudi arms deal Wednesday.

"It's not that there is great opposition to U.S. military help for the Saudis. It's come down to a protest of the way the Saudis acted about the Chinese missiles," said the aide, who asked not to be identified.

The Defence Department Wednesday notified Congress of two U.S. packages of arms and military support totalling \$825 million which the Reagan administration intends to sell to the Saudis despite the controversy.

They include \$325 million in support and training for Saudi airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft and about \$500 million in Bradley infantry fighting vehicles and Taw-2 anti-tank missiles.

Congress has 30 days to study the packages — and possibly reject them in protest.

A number of lawmakers told the administration this week that they were concerned about any

prove the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for progress in the Middle East."

With Wednesday's formal notification, Congress now has 30 days to block the transaction should it wish to do so.

The Pentagon described the deal as covering "contractor maintenance, ground training of aircrews and technicians and augmentation of base and headquarters staffs from June 1, 1989, through May 31, 1992, in support of E-3A (AWACS) and K-3 aerial refuelling tanker aircraft."

The Pentagon said the air force would oversee the transaction and that "the sale of these support services will not affect the basic military balance in the region."

State Department spokesman Charles Redman, in discussing the deal Tuesday, said the Reagan administration had not changed its view "that the AWACS maintenance package is critical to our Gulf policy."

"The Saudi AWACS operation provides important support for the U.S. mission in the Gulf, including protection of U.S. navy personnel," he added.

Despite fears voiced in Washington that Israel might become a target for the missiles, the Saudi purchase was seen by Gulf-based diplomats to be a warning to Iran not to extend its missiles

war beyond Iraqi targets. Under Wednesday's administration proposals, the Boeing Co. would provide some \$325 million in maintenance, ground training, technicians and other support to help the Saudis operate AWACS and tanker aircraft previously purchased from Washington.

The rest of the deal is made up of 200 Bradley M-2 infantry fighting vehicles, 4,460 Taw-2 anti-tank missiles and ammunition for an estimated \$500 million.

Pentagon to sell 69 armoured vehicles to Egypt

WASHINGTON (R) — The Defence Department notified Congress Thursday that it plans to sell 69 M-113 armoured military vehicles to Egypt for \$19 million.

The purchase, part of Egypt's continuing efforts to modernise its armed forces, is expected to become official in 30 days without objection from Congress.

Prime contractor on the sale of the tracked vehicles, which are armed with machineguns, is the FMC Corp. of San Jose, California, the Pentagon said.

Crown Prince's visit heralds enhanced cooperation

(Continued from page 1)

inter-regional cooperation, and referred to His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to rally the Arab fold and formulate a pan-Arab stand during the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November.

Prince Hassan stressed Jordan's firm stand, which calls for a comprehensive solution to the Palestine question through an effective international peace conference to be attended by all parties concerned to the conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The solution should be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Crown Prince noted.

Prince Hassan reiterated Jordan's call for a settlement of the Gulf war on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598.

Prince Hassan underscored the importance of solving the Afghan problem saying the recent Geneva agreement on the issue serves as a source of hope for Jordan and the Arab region because it stresses three important points which are viewed by the Arabs as the keys to solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. These points are withdrawal from territories occupied by force and ending the occupation, right to self-determination and repatriation of refugees.

The Crown Prince said the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories was an expression of the rejection of occupation and stresses the people's right to self-determination. Armouti said economic and in-

vestment dimensions of the Crown Prince's tour were covered effectively through intensive, clear and influential presentations of the following concepts:

— Bilateral, regional and international economic relations can be tackled only through broad starting points that eliminate the narrow vision of inter-regional interests. The starting points should be based on common economic interests and a stable framework for dealing with each other. Organisations for international economic integration should be based on justice in exchange, reduction of subservience and bridging of gaps.

— These factors have contributed to creating a new concept for Arab economic cooperation and for beralding closer cooperation among member states of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Middle Eastern countries on the one hand and other world countries on the other.

Prince Hassan also stressed Jordan's keen interest to develop bilateral economic cooperation in the best interest of all these countries. This comprehensive perception is in line with the Japanese government's decision in October 1987 to grant Jordan a \$300 million easy-term loan for socio-economic infrastructure projects, Armouti noted.

Investment seminar
A Jordanian-Japanese investment seminar was held in Japan April 20 coinciding with Prince Hassan's visit. The Crown Prince opened the seminar and was the main driving force behind its success and the achievement of its goals, Armouti said.

These goals, he added, could be summarised as relations of exchange and acquaintance be-

tween representatives of economic institutions in the public and private sectors of both countries.

The seminar and the Japanese response to it have opened practical horizons for Japanese investment in Jordan, according to Armouti.

The Japanese side, he said, has realised the advantages of investments in Jordan in terms of the Kingdom's geographic location, investment atmosphere, flexible laws and regulations, Jordan's distinguished position as a centre for technological advancement and qualified manpower and its credibility and close ties with all countries of the region, possibilities for utilising preferential treatment given to Jordan by the Council of Arab Economic Unity, the European Community and the U.S., Armouti said.

'Singaporean experience'

The visit of the Jordanian delegation to Singapore was a valuable opportunity for obtaining in-depth acquaintance with the "Singaporean experience," which transformed the small country with limited resources as a distinguished international and regional centre for services and high-technology industries, Armouti said.

Jordan will certainly benefit from Singapore's example in future development plans and programmes, according to Armouti.

Relations with India

During his talks in India, the Crown Prince centred on the need for further promoting and expanding trade, economic and investment relations, Armouti said.

Among the main aspects of economic relations between the two countries is the big volume of India's imports of Jordanian phosphates, the developed trade exchange since the signing of the

first bilateral economic agreement in 1962 and the subsequent bilateral agreements, memos of understanding and meetings of the Jordanian-Indian Joint Committee, Armouti said.

The volume of Jordan's phosphate exports to India reached 1,138,000 tonnes in 1987 and this represents about half of India's consumption of phosphates, Armouti said.

But India's exports to Jordan, he said, are not on the same level. This prompted the Jordanian government to take measures to adjust the balance of trade, which is in Jordan's favour and sought to increase imports from India and granted Indian companies contracts in Jordan to strike a balance, Armouti said.

The Jordanian side stressed the need for setting up joint potash and phosphate industries with Indian expertise and equipment, and the Crown Prince expressed desire to benefit from the Indian experience in developing Jordan's technological capabilities, especially in the field of uranium extraction from phosphates.

Prince Hassan gave special importance to scientific cooperation during the Jordanian-Japanese investment seminar. Working papers at the seminar included a specific offer for Japanese investments in scientific and technological fields in Jordan, particularly in the area of industries.

Prince Hassan's interest in this aspect was reflected in his visit to scientific and technological institutions and industries, Armouti noted.

Armouti said the success of Prince Hassan's visit to Singapore, Japan and India was not only due to good organisation and preparations but it also shows the comprehensive vision, deep insight and thinking and the intellectual background of the Crown Prince.

Ozal says no reasons to call off Athens visit

ANKARA (AP) — Premier Turgut Ozal Thursday said he still plans to visit Athens in June, despite the collapse of talks earlier this week between Turkey and the European Economic Community (EEC) over the Cyprus dispute.

Ozal, in an apparent attempt to dispel speculation that the EEC meeting fiasco would spell the end of Greek-Turkish rapprochement, told reporters: "There is no valid reason at this time for cancelling my visit to Athens."

Ozal, speaking to reporters after his weekly meeting with President Kenan Evren, said: "I have trust that we will go through critical periods in an understanding of cool-headedness and responsibility becoming statesmen."

Ozal and his Greek counterpart Andreas Papandreou agreed

in a meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in January to work towards, lasting peaceful relations between their long feuding countries.

The summit did not resolve any of the major conflicts between neighbouring Greece and Turkey. Ozal predicted at the time that it would be three to five years before significant progress could be achieved in relations.

The tenuous reconciliation, known as the "spirit of Davos" on both sides of the Aegean, was shaken Monday when the Turkish delegation, led by Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz, boycotted an EEC association meeting to protest a reference to the Cyprus problem in the opening statement of the trading bloc.

The phrase that Cyprus had a bearing on Turkish-EEC relations was placed in the statement upon the insistence of Greece, a

member of the EEC.

Afterwards, Yilmaz described the incident as a blow to the spirit of Davos and said Turkey may reconsider some scheduled exchanges with Greece.

This led to commentaries in the Turkish press that the Davos understanding was over. Ozal's visit may be cancelled as a result, and a new period of tension could flare in relations.

For the past three decades, Turks and Greeks have been quarrelling over Cyprus, the Mediterranean island divided since Turkey's invasion in 1974, mineral rights and airspace limits of the Aegean, and the militarisation of the Greek islands in the Aegean claimed by Turkey to be in violation of international treaties.

Currently, Turkey's major expectation from Greece is to re-


frain from moves to block Turkey's full membership in the EEC, diplomatic sources say. Turkey applied for membership a year ago.

Greece, on the other hand, is known to be anxious for movement on Cyprus, starting with withdrawal of Turkish troops from the north where Turkish Cypriots declared an independent ministate in 1983.

On Thursday, Ozal reiterated the Turkish view that the Cyprus dispute is outside of the Davos framework and has nothing to do with EEC relations.

Turkey and Greece can only contribute to the efforts of the two communities of the island to reach a settlement under United Nations sponsorship, he said.

"Any intervention other than this will only make a solution more difficult," the premier said.



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ملكي الاردني

Privatisation to overhaul public transportation

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications is putting the final touches on a programme aimed at privatising the state-owned Public Transport Corporation (PTC) and transforming it into a public shareholding company.

Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Haj Hassan Friday stressed the need to accelerate the privatisation process by beginning the implementation of preliminary steps in this direction.

In a meeting at the PTC Friday, the minister discussed with PTC officials the specific steps to transform the corporation into a public shareholding company.

Experts' reports financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) were presented during the meeting on the subject of privatisation.

The decision by the ministry, which remains to be endorsed by the Cabinet and approved by the Lower House of Parliament, will entail the restructuring of PTC route networks, management, and several changes that also affect the private transportation sector.

PTC director of department of transport and operations Marwan Kheetan, who is the counterpart for consultants who compiled reports on raising the efficiency of the PTC, told the Jordan Times that the evaluation of the PTC's assets had been finalised and that everything is now set for beginning the privatisation process.

Committees have been established and have tackled the legal aspects of privatisation and the contract to establish the new company with new laws and regulations," Kheetan said.

The corporation, he said, "has finalised all aspects of planning and awaits the decision of the Cabinet and the legislative branch."

Kheetan explained that in the first stage is to transform the PTC into a company with its shares totally owned by the government until it improves its financial situation and begin to generate profit.

After that, the question of involving the private sector will be discussed.

The changes on the PTC had been suggested after taking into consideration the entire transport sector in the Greater Amman area.

**JD 1 million profit vs.
JD 0.5 million loss**

Anthony Shephard, who authored reports on PTC privatisation, the new route network and

Mini buses

Service cars will be encouraged to convert to 14-seat mini buses more suited to constant on-off mass transit over long routes.

Operators will probably be able to change three car licences for one mini buses licence. The 1,200 mini buses will operate 14 hours daily. Three drivers per mini bus will work separate shifts and fuel cost savings will make the mini buses 50 per cent more profitable, according to the report.

Increased profits are calculated on the assumption of increased passenger use. The government will profit from franchise fees collected from all operators, the report says.

The PTC carries out nearly 20 per cent of the transport service while the service cars fulfil 70 per cent and private sector buses cover the rest.

Kheetan said that the replacement of service cars by mini buses would be carried out gradually and that it will largely depend on the reaction and cooperation of the private sector.

Observers believe that if the government chooses to impose the changes on the private sector, it may result in a blow to service drivers who operate nearly 4,500 service cars in the country.

Shephard told the Jordan Times that some service cars may be left to operate on short routes inside Amman, but it is not yet clear which approach the concerned authorities will opt for.

Kheetan said however, that the changes will guarantee a better transport service for the public, with longer routes and higher frequency. But he refused to discuss expected administrative changes in the PTC and the fate of nearly 1,050 PTC staff.

Economists confirm that there will be major cuts in the PTC staff and some changes in the corporation's administration before it is transformed into a company.

He said that he expected the new company law for the transformation of the PTC would be presented to Parliament for debate after the month of Ramadan.

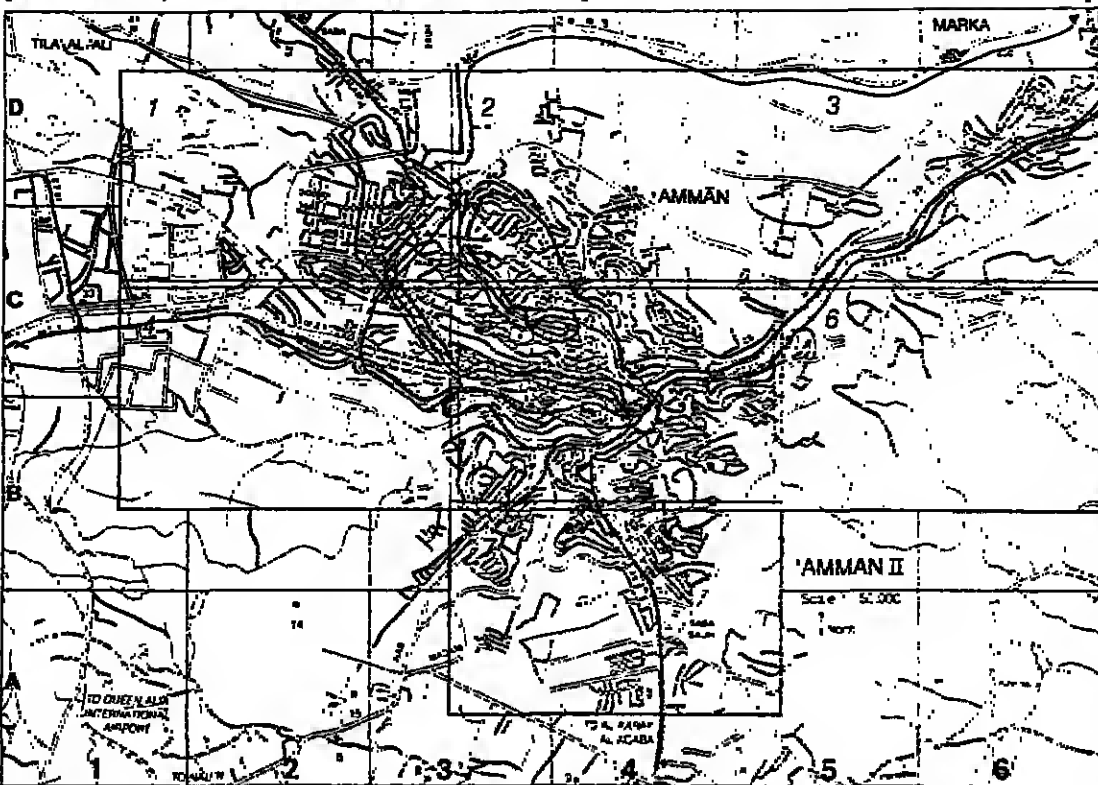
The decision to transform the corporation was taken in principle last year. All the PTC's installations, vehicles and other assets have been evaluated and there are proposals to have private sector representatives on the new company's board of directors along with government administration.

Scrapping over 100 buses

Three months ago, the PTC took the step of scrapping 111 buses from its fleet because of



A bus (far left) tries to squeeze its way in a traffic situation round the corner at the far end (File photo)



Map shows external and cross route plan envisaged under PTC privatisation (Special photo)

their increasingly uneconomic maintenance cost.

The PTC's current operational fleet is about 300 buses of which 250 are in operation at any given time.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, Shephard said that in addition to the running PTC annual losses, the PTC's situation was bound to get worse if the government does not accelerate the process of privatisation.

He explained that because the PTC is state-owned, every public figure or minister would continue to insist on new routes being operated with little or no consideration for economic feasibility and planning.

"We have tried to eliminate wasted movements," Shephard said, "and we are having a favourable reception from all authorities."

"The plan is to get the PTC off

these unprofitable routes and shift to longer and combined route networks that are profitable, without reducing services to the public," he said.

He expects more people to begin to use the PTC "if they could travel more conveniently." Shephard was brought in to compile four reports on the PTC and its privatisation by USAID, which provided \$325,000 to finance the research.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.8838/48	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.2280/90	Canadian dollar
	1.6667/77	Deutschmarks
	1.8695/8700	Dutch guilders
	1.3865/75	Swiss francs
	34.87/91	Belgian francs
	5.6690/6720	French francs
	1240/1243	Italian lire
	124.55/65	Japanese yen
	5.8500/50	Swedish crowns
	6.1360/1410	Norwegian crowns
	6.4150/4200	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	449.80/450.30	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Share prices closed higher in most sectors with volumes inflated by further option exercises. Scarcity of sellers helped boost prices in selected stocks. The All Ordinaries index rose 7.2 to 1,457.1.

TOKYO — Market closed for emperor's birthday.

HONG KONG — Shares closed higher encouraged by the suspension of dealing in several listed firms, some involved in takeover bids, but trading was sluggish. The Hang Seng index rose 14.73 to 2,602.87.

SINGAPORE — Prices were marginally higher on some speculative buying and bargain hunting. The Straits Times industrial index rose 4.49 to 965.94.

BOMBAY — Prices slipped a little on widespread profit-taking after two days of sharp gains sparked by government tax relief measures.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended mixed but at the day's best levels in quiet trading, with short-covering by professional operators lifting prices in the second half of the session. The Commerzbank index, calculated at mid-session, fell 11.3 to 1,356.2.

ZURICH — Prices closed slightly lower in featureless trading, with no fresh factors emerging. The Swiss index fell two to 822.

PARIS — Shares ended the continuous session quietly lower but above the day's lows because of bargain-hunting.

LONDON — Prices steadied near the day's lows in late business as Wall Street traded around its early opening lower levels. At 1449 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 6.9 at 1,797.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks stayed broadly lower in late morning trading but blue chips recovered some of their earlier losses. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 11 at 2,030.

Diamond prices rise

LONDON (AP) — The De Beers diamond cartel said Thursday it was increasing prices for rough gemstones an average of 13.5 per cent because sales are sparking worldwide despite the worldwide stock market crash.

Sales of diamonds, which are priced in dollars, have been boosted by the drop in the U.S. currency, which makes them cheaper to holders of Japanese yen and European currencies.

De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., a Johannesburg-based concern that controls 80 per cent of the world's rough diamond market through its London-based marketing arm, Central Selling

Organisation, said the price increases for a broad range of uncut diamonds would take effect May 3.

"The increases are not weighted toward any particular category," said spokesman Richard Dickson.

When De Beers last increased its prices, by an average 10 per cent on Oct. 5, it boosted its prices for the better-quality diamonds the most. That was the only price increase in 1987 and followed an increase of 14.5 per cent, in two steps, in 1986.

De Beers does not disclose what its prices actually are.

Baker opposes Third World debt plans hitting U.S. taxpayers or banks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Treasury Secretary James Baker strongly opposed Thursday any solution to the Third World's trillion-dollar debt problem that would require more spending by U.S. taxpayers or banks.

"We should not be misled by the false promise of 'global solutions' of one sort or another," he told a congressional hearing.

"To be direct, I believe this path leads both debtors and creditors off the cliff," he noted.

He also spoke to reporters after the hearing against the proposal for a guarantee of new private bank lending to Brazil by the World Bank, to which the United States has been the biggest contributor.

Brazil is the Third World's biggest debtor, owing over \$120 billion. Last year it paid almost

nothing on nearly \$70 billion it already owed to private banks.

Baker said the World Bank — owned by 151 governments — does not generally make such guarantees, and not to countries with the potential that Brazil has. Brazil has the biggest economy in Latin America, accounting for about a third of its total production.

Baker argued at length with Congressman David R. Obey, who chairs the subcommittee on Foreign Operations of the Appropriations Committee in the House of Representatives.

Obey, a Democrat, was backed by Republican Congressman John Edward Porter in telling Baker that the House is unlikely to approve a \$70 million U.S. contribution to the World Bank.

Reagan to veto trade bill, seek substitute

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Reagan will veto the omnibus trade bill given final approval by Congress Wednesday but wants to work with legislators to produce an acceptable substitute, the White House said Thursday.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters the president would veto the bill which the Senate approved by a 63-36 vote Wednesday following an overwhelming vote in favour of it in the House.

But Fitzwater said Reagan wanted to work with Congress to

trash out a trade bill that would take out a provision requiring advance notice of plant closings.

Fitzwater said that Reagan, in a message to Congress that will accompany his veto, would "lay out his concerns" with the bill, including his objections to a provision requiring firms with more than 100 employees to give at least 60 days notice before closing down their operations.

Fitzwater said the White House did not expect to receive the bill until the middle of next week at the earliest and he could not say exactly when the president would

veto the legislation.

The president has ten days on receipt of the bill to issue his veto.

Fitzwater said other objectionable provisions included the transfer of the president's trade negotiating authority to the U.S. trade representative and provisions he said required mandatory restrictions and retaliation against perceived unfair trade practices.

But Fitzwater said: "We want to get another trade bill passed. We would like to turn around this veto as soon as possible."

While the 435-member House passed the trade bill with more than enough votes to override the president's veto, the Senate vote gave the administration hope the veto could be sustained.

At least two-thirds of the 100-member Senate, or 66 votes, were needed to override the veto. Reagan thus has a good chance of defeating the bill as both chambers would have to override the veto to enact the bill into law.

Fitzwater said the president's veto message would give Congress "a good signal as to what would be acceptable to us."

India considers setting up exhibition in Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The head of India's trade fairs department called on Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf Thursday to discuss setting up an exhibition of Indian national products in Jordan to promote their sales in the Kingdom.

Saqqaf told the envoy that the Ministry of Industry and Trade

will be ready to offer all its facilities and assistance for such an exhibition.

India is the main importer of Jordan's phosphate, potash and fertilisers.

Saqqaf last year paid a visit to India and signed initial agreement on promoting bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The agreement provides for an

increase in the volume of bilateral trade and for maintaining the present level of Jordanian export of phosphates, potash and fertilisers to India.

Agreement was reached also on launching joint industrial projects to benefit from fertilisers employing Jordanian raw materials.

Statistics from the Ministry of

Industry and Trade reveal that the balance of trade was in favour of Jordan, with India importing 20 per cent of the Kingdom's total exports in 1986.

India that year imported one million tonnes of phosphates and a total of 360,000 tonnes of potash and fertilisers against Jordanian imports of Indian goods worth \$15 million only.

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U.S. optimistic Noriega will step down after secret talks

WASHINGTON (R) — Secret U.S. talks with Panamanian military ruler Manuel Antonio Noriega have left Reagan administration officials cautiously optimistic he will step down, administration sources said.

"We are now trying to see if there is common ground," one official said.

"No final agreement has been made, but the groundwork may have been laid," he added after several days of talks in Panama between Noriega and Michael Kozak, deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

"We are cautiously optimistic that a deal will be made."

A top opposition leader in Panama, who asked not to be identified, said Kozak met Noriega's "personal friends and political advisers."

U.S. officials in Washington said Kozak, who returned to Washington late Thursday, met

Noriega personally last week to talk about a compromise plan for his withdrawal from power.

The Washington Post said the Reagan administration and Noriega had reached a tentative pact that he will resign as head of the Panamanian Defence Forces.

The newspaper quoted an unnamed U.S. official as saying: "The question of Noriega's physical location is still on the table."

This reflected the more flexible stance the White House has taken on whether the 50-year-old general remains in Panama. It had previously sought to persuade Noriega to go into far-flung exile — Spain and Israel had been mentioned — to prevent him

from trying to run the government from behind the scenes.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Thursday: "Our policy is that General Noriega must go, which means leave power... we have said we prefer to see him leave Panama but the policy issue is leave power."

Fitzwater said that while there was no change in America's basic policy, which led President Reagan last month to impose sanctions on Panama to weaken the general's grip on power, the administration was willing to listen to Noriega's plans and ideas.

"Down with pineapple face"

Meanwhile, in Panama City security agents arrested at least 30 people in a crackdown on the opposition and during street protests against Noriega, and arrest warrants were issued for opposition leaders.

Riot police and plainclothes officers fired birdshot into the air

from 12-gauge shotguns and lobbed tear gas canisters to disperse small groups of protesters.

Hundreds of demonstrators set up burning barricades and taunted police and riot troops, who patrolled in trucks.

The protesters chanted, "Get out, Noriega" and, in a derogatory reference to Noriega's pockmarked face, "Down with Pineapple Face."

Journalists saw police arrest several people in the city of David near the Costa Rican border. A church source in David said at least two people were wounded when demonstrators began throwing rocks at police.

Police refused to comment on the reports.

Before the demonstrations, Attorney General Carlos A. Vilalaz told a news conference that 30 people arrested were planning a three-day campaign of violence which he said may have included tampering with two Panama Canal locks.

Pro-French loyalist killed by Kanak separatists

NOUMEA (Agencies) — Kanak separatist tribesmen killed a pro-French loyalist — the self-confessed killer of 10 Kanaks — Friday in the French-ruled South Pacific territory of New Caledonia, local officials said.

Also Friday, separatist guerrillas who kidnapped 23 lawmen freed an assistant prosecutor Friday and ordered him to negotiate on behalf of the separatists.

Jose Lapetite, 31, was shot in the head and leg at his farm 300 kilometres north of Noumea during clashes with an unidentified group of Kanaks (ethnic Melanesians) near the town of Voh.

His brother was also shot at during the fighting.

Lapetite and his father were among seven pro-French loyalists who confessed to killing a group of Kanak separatists during an ambush at Hienghene, in the north of the island, in December 1984.

The Kanak victims of the 1984 ambush included two brothers of Jean-Marie Tjibaou, leader of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS), the main separatist group on the island.

All seven loyalists involved in the killings were freed last November. Their trial is among the most often-cited causes for the present wave of violence.

Prosecutor Jean Bianconi was released from a cave on the island of Ouvea and told to pursue negotiations with French authorities. Bianconi was the second hostage in two days released to mediate.

On Thursday, Captain Philippe Legorjus, chief of the French anti-terrorism force, flew by helicopter to talk to French authorities in Fayaoué, a village on Ouvea, an island of the northeast coast of New Caledonia.

Legorjus, Bianconi and five police officers were seized by the separatists Wednesday as they sought to negotiate the release of the 15 lawmen kidnapped on April 22.

The initial hostages were among 27 people grabbed in a bloody attack at a police station that left four gendarmes dead. Twelve of those hostages subsequently were freed.

The attack was part of widespread violence that has left 10 people injured and is aimed at halting Sunday's French presidential elections on the island.

British TV screens allegations against army in IRA killings

LONDON (AP) — Ignoring government demands for a postponement, a television company screened allegations Thursday night that British soldiers killed three unarmed Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas on a bombing mission in Gibraltar as two apparently tried to surrender and a third fled.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, legal political arm of the outlawed IRA, said in a statement the allegations in the Thames television documentary "Death on the Rock" screened nationwide showed clearly the three were "summarily executed."

But Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King, the cabinet member responsible for the province, told the House of Commons that screening the allegations would amount to trial by television and would prejudice an inquest on the three in Gibraltar.

In the programme, Carmen Proetta, a translator, said she saw the March 6 shootings from her apartment window in the British colony.

She said she saw three armed men in plainclothes get out of a Gibraltar police car, jump over a metal barrier in the road and open fire on two of the guerrillas, subsequently identified as Mairead Farrell, 31, and Daniel McCann, 30.

"When they (Farrell and McCann) saw these men had guns in their hands, they just put their hands up. It looked like the man was protecting the girl because he

stood in front of her, but there was no chance. I mean they went to the floor immediately, they dropped," Proetta said.

She described their action in putting their hands up as "Like giving themselves up."

She said that after the initial shooting, which she said occurred without warning, "a blond gunman bent down and with the two hands he got his gun like that and went on shooting at them."

Other alleged eyewitnesses, including British lawyer Stephen Bullock, described in the programme seeing the third guerrilla, Sean Savage, 24, shot in the back as he tried to run away.

Press reports say the plainclothes gunmen are thought to have been commandos of the army's crack Special Air Service regiment.

Proetta's account appeared to contradict a statement by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on March 7. Howe told parliament then that the three were challenged as they walked toward the nearby Spanish border and were slain because they "made movements which led security personnel to believe their lives were in danger."

The IRA said at the time that the guerrillas had been on "active service," meaning they were planning an attack.

Howe asked Lord Thomson, chairman of the controlling Independent Broadcasting Authority, to delay screening the programme on grounds it could prejudice the inquest in Gibraltar.



Inspired by hijacking

SAN GABRIEL, CA (AP) — A teenager reportedly inspired by the recent Kuwaiti airliner hijacking took a semi-automatic rifle to school and held 70 students hostage before he was overpowered by classmates. Two shots were fired, police said, but no one was hurt during the ordeal, which lasted more than 30 minutes Tuesday at San Gabriel High School, east of downtown Los Angeles. Authorities said Jeff Lynne Cox, 18, was being held at the Alhambra Police Department Wednesday for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon and false imprisonment. Cox, a senior at the school, was enrolled in the class held hostage. "He said he got the idea from the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and from Stephen King's book 'Range,'" said Scott French, who said Cox was his friend. "He told us to calm down, and he said he wanted \$1 million in cash tax free." Cox ordered teacher Julie Rivera to leave the room and fired a shot into the air when she first refused. Another shot was discharged when the students tackled the gunman and disarmed him.

Sometimes prayers don't work

BOSTON (R) — A Christian Science couple have been indicted on manslaughter charges in the death of their two-year-old son, who died after they tried to cure his illness with prayer rather than modern medicine. Suffolk County prosecutor Newman Flanagan said Ginger and David Twitchell of Boston were indicted by a grand jury Friday in the death of their son Robyn, who died of an intestinal obstruction on April 8, 1986, five days after he became ill. The Church of Christ, Scientist, which was founded in Massachusetts in 1879 and has 2,700 churches worldwide, promotes spiritual healing over traditional medicine. Its members are not supposed to drink alcohol, smoke tobacco or use drugs of any kind. According to police reports, when their son first became ill the Twitchells contacted an accredited church practitioner, who came to their home to pray for his recovery while a nurse from the church monitored his progress. The boy developed convulsions on the eve of his death and lost consciousness. The police report said the father called a funeral home after finding no vital signs and was directed to call a hospital, where the boy was pronounced dead. A statement issued by the church, which is based in Boston, said the Twitchells "acted in accord with the law as they understood it."

The power of persuasion

EAST BERLIN (R) — An East Berlin court jailed a volunteer fireman for 13 years for instructing children by telephone how to murder or abuse their brothers or sisters. According to a report in Thursday's trade union daily Tribune, the 20-year-old technician chose numbers at random in the modern city suburb of Marzahn and then terrorized the youngsters or women who answered. In one case, the man, named only as Thomas S., persuaded a nine-year-old boy to make a noose for his sister. "Now push the chair away. You must do it because your sister is very ill and she will otherwise die," he said. When the noose snapped, the boy was ordered to drown the girl in the bath. But that failed too. The petrified boy declined to follow the man's last order to push his sister out of the apartment window. Describing the case as unprecedented, Tribune said the man had confessed to making 100 to 150 such calls. "Five attempted murders could be proved. Yet not once did he get his hands dirty," the newspaper said. The man was able to convince the children to carry out his instructions by saying their parents would otherwise face fines.

At least somebody thinks you're smart

TAIPEI (AP) — Contestants from 69 countries and territories kicked off the 1988 Miss Universe pageant hoopla by dancing at the first rehearsal for the May 24 extravaganza. "I was surprised many of them already know me," Miss U.S.A., Courtney Gibbs, said of her competitors. "Choreographers said we were smart, and we nearly got it right," said Miss Hong Kong, Pauline Yeung. Thursday's rehearsal was the first time the competitors got together since pageant activities officially began Sunday. The "beauty" contest will be televised live to an estimated 600 million viewers in more than 57 countries, organisers say.

Polls give Mitterrand edge over Chirac

PARIS (AP) — Socialist President Francois Mitterrand Friday was judged the winner of an acrimonious debate with rival conservative Premier Jacques Chirac, televised 10 days before voters return to the polls for the presidential runoff.

Thirty-two per cent of television viewers gave Mitterrand the edge and 24 per cent said Chirac had won the Thursday night debate. Twenty-one per cent called the debate a draw while 23 per cent had no opinion.

The poll of 800 people 18 years of age or older was conducted immediately after the debate by the private firm CSA for the newspaper Le Parisien and Radio France. No margin of error was given.

The debate, often biting and sarcastic, was the first between Mitterrand and Chirac since they began sharing power in March 1986. The two men attacked each other's policies, drawing on detailed figures and weaving sophisticated arguments.

For Chirac, 55, the key to winning the May 8 runoff election could lie with capturing the votes of those who favour Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the extreme-right National Front.

Nixon says Jackson won't be 'spoiler' at convention

DETROIT (R) — Former U.S. President Richard Nixon said Thursday Jesse Jackson would not be a "spoiler" at the Democratic Party convention because he does not want to damage the future of blacks in presidential politics.

In a speech, Nixon also said Democratic frontrunner Michael Dukakis must prove he has a heart for politics as well as the intellect to be president.

Nixon said Jackson has conducted a "brilliant" campaign for president but said the black activist is too liberal to be elected.

The former president, who resigned in 1974 in the Watergate scandal, said he did not think Jackson would demand to be part of the presidential ticket at the convention.

"I don't think he will be the spoiler. He is the first black candidate — he doesn't want to be the last," said Nixon.

"He doesn't want to do to blacks what (Democratic vice presidential candidate) Geraldine Ferraro is unfairly charged with doing to women in 1984."

Nixon said because of Ferraro's problems, particularly the questions surrounding her husband's finances, "there isn't going to be a woman on a Democratic ticket in the balance of this century."

whether Dukakis would have to pick Jackson as his running mate because of the number of delegates Jackson has amassed.

Added Nixon, "I'm glad it's their dilemma and not ours."

Nixon reiterated his earlier prediction that Vice-President George Bush will defeat Dukakis in a very close November election that will be decided in California.

Describing Dukakis as cool and tough, Nixon smiled broadly as he recounted the enthusiasm of his 1968 opponent, the late Hubert Humphrey.

"You've got to get out there and love the people. Dukakis has shown that he has a heart — he should get out there and show the people that he has a heart," Nixon said.

Mulroney seen winning support in acid rain fight

WASHINGTON (R) — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney has won new U.S. congressional support for his effort to curb acid rain, but still faces a stone wall at the White House, senior Canadian officials said.

Mulroney, winding up a two-day official visit to Washington Thursday, met with President Reagan at noon following morning meetings with Senate leaders to try to persuade Congress to approve legislation to curb acid rain fallout.

"There are some signs of growing support," for legislation to curb acid rain which is damaging lakes, rivers and forests in eastern Canada and the U.S., one Canadian official said after the Senate meeting.

"The time for study is over and the time for action is now," Senator Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont, one of the states hardest-hit by acid rain, said.

Acid rain is created when sulphur and nitrates from coal-fired electric power plants — chiefly in the U.S. Midwest and Northeast — combine with moisture in the air and drift back to earth in damaging rain and snow.

The Reagan administration opposes pending legislation to reduce acid rain fallout because it says not enough is known about how it is formed or how to eliminate it.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Armenian guerrilla leader shot dead

ATHENS (R) — A man shot dead in Athens Thursday was a leader of the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) which has carried out numerous guerrilla attacks against Turkish targets in recent years, the Greek Ministry of Public Order said. A ministry statement said the dead man was identified by his wife as Agop Agopian. He was gunned down with sawn-off shotguns as he left his home in an Athens suburb early Thursday. Shortly after the shooting in the expensive seaside suburb of Paleo Faliro, police identified the man as 39-year-old Abdu Muhammad Kasim, a businessman for Aden, South Yemen. This was based on a passport found on his body but

police said Agopian's wife told them he used a number of false passports. Agopian's wife said he was leaving his home before dawn to take an early flight from Athens airport to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, when two masked gunmen approached and opened fire. ASALA has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks against Turkish diplomats in West Europe and the United States and seeks an independent state in the Armenian region of Turkey.

Mid-air explosion on Hawaii jet

KAHULUI, Hawaii (AP) — An explosion tore open an Aloha Airlines jetliner as it approached the island of Maui Thursday, injuring at least 59 people, officials said. The Boeing 737, one of its engines aflame and part of the roof torn off, made an emergency landing Kahului Airport at 2 p.m. (0000 GMT). The jet had set out with 89 passengers and a crew of five, state officials said. Radio station Knuu on Maui reported that officials said one person was sucked out of the plane in the air and was missing, and that as many as 12 others might be missing. There was no immediate confirmation from the airline. Herb Campos, a fire chief in Kahului, said "We are trying to ascertain if this is true, but we have no confirmation at this point." Kevin Morimatsu, a spokesman for the department of transportation, said the cause of the explosion aboard the Hilo-to-Honolulu flight had not been determined. FBI agents from Honolulu were sent to Maui to investigate whether the explosion was caused by a bomb, said FBI spokesman Robert Heafner.

Draft of Hong Kong constitution released

PEKING (AP) — A special committee Thursday released a controversial draft of the constitution by which Communist China will govern capitalist Hong Kong after Britain withdraws in 1997. The 59-page draft assures Hong Kong's 5.7 million residents that China will not impose socialism on the thriving trade city for at least 50 years. The draft outlines procedures for establishing a semi-autonomous Hong Kong system to govern the enclave as a "special administrative region" with its own taxes, courts, education system and social welfare system. It also promises to protect civil liberties but contains numerous qualifiers that some Hong Kong residents fear could allow Chinese authorities to govern as autocratically as they have on the mainland.

India fears 1,750 more Bhopal deaths

BHOPAL, India (AP) — India fears that 1,750 more people will die in the next seven years as a result of the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, according to a report released Thursday by the Madhya Pradesh state government. The toll to date was put at 2,998, nearly 200 higher than the previously reported estimate of 2,800. The report said the deaths were "conclusively attributed" to toxic effects of the gas and added that 816 others deaths were under investigation to determine if there was a link to the gas leak. The figures were contained in the central Indian state's new "action plan," which calls for spending 3.7 billion rupees (\$285 million) on relief measures for victims and their families in the next seven years. The funds will come from the federal treasury, which already has spent more than 600 million rupees (\$46 million) to assist the gas victims.

By Claudia Rader Reuter

LONDON — Some have had their skin seared by acid or their bones broken. Others have had their feet mutilated by beating or their heads held under water until their lungs nearly burst.

Many of them believed their minds and their sleep would be forever poisoned by the horror of their experience.

They are among hundreds of victims of torture from more than 70 countries who are finding solace and hope from a London charity which helps them cope with the physical and emotional scars of their past.

"The purpose of torture is to destroy the mind, body, spirit and beliefs of the individual," said Helen Bamber, founder of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture.

"Our work is to recreate life, to help people see what has been going on in their life and to find meaning in their survival," she told Reuters in her Central London office.

Bamber has been involved with refugees since, as a young social worker, she accompanied allied troops liberating Nazi concentration camps and organized rehabilitation of survivors.

The foundation was part of the human rights group Amnesty International until Bamber established it as an independent organization in 1986.

Survival after

Her patients, some 350 and their families, range from former World War Two prisoners to present-day victims.

"The problem of survival after the event is often as difficult as the struggle to survive within the ordeal. Torture is a hidden subject, people don't want to hear about it. For some, it may be the first time that someone is listening to what they might have been," said Bamber.

The foundation, an independent charity supported by public donations, United Nations and

European Commission grants, has a small highly-trained permanent staff and a network of about 30 volunteer doctors, psychiatrists, therapists, counsellors and social workers.

They adopt a holistic approach to helping their patients to cope with their trauma. They provide for special needs, such as shoes for feet crippled by beating on the soles, and help with the logistical problems of being a refugee.

But mostly they just listen.

Screams, blood

"Every day there is something that reminds me, that makes me remember the savagery and brutality," said Mehri, who was 22 and nine months pregnant with her second child when she was seized by Iranian security forces in 1983 after visiting a relative who was an opponent of the government.

During two years in prison, she says she was tortured and forced to watch executions of children and old people.

"We were packed into tiny cells and all day long we could hear the screams of people being interrogated, tortured and executed," she said through an interpreter friend.

"Sometimes we would be taken to a cell covered in blood stains, stretched naked on a bench and whipped all over our bodies with electric cables. Our arms would be tied over our head with heavy weights attached, there were mock executions," she said, smoking heavily and her eyes occasionally brimming with tears.

Mehri — who asked that her name be changed to protect her family still in Iran — says the foundation is a haven: The contact with other people who have survived torture helps her exorcise her pain.

The foundation's patients come from Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Some are very young: One African victim was only 15 when troops raided his village and slaughtered his family.

Suspected of "terrorism," he

was savagely tortured for two years and severely burned by paraffin rags which were wrapped around his neck and set alight.

Plastic surgery may erase some of the scars, but he will always be disfigured. Now 21, he is struggling to accept himself and says he finds it hard to believe others could love him.

Ugly emotions

"It's hard for victims of torture to trust their life with somebody. But it's twice as hard to trust your emotions with anyone else, because you feel you've got a lot of them pent up in you and most of them are ugly emotions that you don't want anyone to know about," he said.

Some of the patients are British: People tortured while imprisoned on drug charges abroad and even some World War Two veterans only now coming to terms with their experiences in Japanese prisoner of war camps.

As varied as their backgrounds may be, the litany of symptoms are the same: sleeplessness, blackouts, depression, hallucinations, guilt, withdrawal, despair.

One torture victim who has been able to turn his experience to helping others is Argentinian Penico Rodriguez, a former left-wing town clerk.

"I was tortured month after month, all the things you read about in books," he said. Over the course of three years, Rodriguez, now 46, says he was subjected to mock executions, shackled to iron beds and pumped with electricity, beaten and thrown naked into freezing isolation cells.

Repeated "submarine" torture — where the victim's head is held underwater to within inches of drowning — has left Rodriguez with a severely damaged lung.

"When you are suffering you think there is no hope, but being here is a way to show them that despite everything, you survived. When you come out of it you want to commit yourself to something bigger, for the sake of those friends left behind that you couldn't help," he said.

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